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Drive-in funeral

Friends of fallen dispatcher listen to service on car radios

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — "My dad was my best friend. He was so strict coming up, and I get it now. I needed him a little longer, but I guess God needed him more," Xaiantria Nichols said Friday.

"I remember the notes he'd put in my lunch. I wish I could find that lunchbox with those notes. No parent is perfect, but my dad was perfect for us," the daughter of Damon Nichols said. "My dad made such an impact."

That was evident Friday when cars filled the parking lot at Starks & Menchinger Chapel in St. Joseph, where a unique funeral was held for Nichols, 45, who died April 21 at his home in Benton Harbor following a battle with cancer. He worked as a Berrien County dispatcher, a job friends say he loved, for 14 years.

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Family and friends remain outside while they listen to a Celebration of Life ceremony on their car's radio for Damon Alonzo "Buddha" Nichols Friday at Starks Family Funeral Home in St. Joseph. Only a limited number of family were allowed in the service due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Celebration of Life for Damon "Buddha" Nichols was officiated by Minister Stanley Scott, youth pastor at Second Baptist Church in Benton Harbor.

Due to restrictions on gatherings because of the coronavirus pandemic, only immediate family was in the chapel, but other relatives, co-workers and friends, including dozens of public safety workers, listened in the parking lot over their car radios tuned to a station that could only be heard in the Starks & Menchinger parking lot.

The service opened with Al Green's rendition of "For the Good Times," and closed with "Really Going to Miss You" by Smoky Robinson.

Nestled in between were Bible readings, the reading of condolences people had sent in, remarks by family members, the reading of poems written by family members and the eulogy, delivered by Scott.

NICHOLS

Scott said the first time he saw Damon Nichols was in 1992 when Scott was a freshman at Benton Harbor High School and Nichols was a senior.

"He had a full beard, the arms of a linebacker and the neck of a boxer," Scott said. He said he wondered if Nichols was a student or a teacher.

He prayed for the Lord to help friends and family make sense of Nichols' early death and said, "There's a difference between being missed and being remembered. Damon lived a life to be missed, and you are all here today because of the life he lived."

A Celebration of Life ceremony is broadcast on the radio for Damon Alonzo "Buddha" Nichols on Friday.

Tom Starks, owner/manager at Starks & Menchinger, said it was the second funeral to have been broadcast in the parking lot, so friends could be there to support the family. Special equipment is rented from an electronics company so attendees can listen to a Celebration of Life service while sitting in their cars.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders keeping people apart, it's a way to bring people together to support grieving families, Starks said. And a way for friends to say goodbye.

Co-workers and friends of Nichols shared memories of him prior to Friday's funeral service.

Berrien County 911 dispatcher John MacGregor said it's easy to lose track of time while fielding emergency calls.

But if Damon Nichols was working, MacGregor always knew when it was time for shift change.

"We worked on different shifts and it wasn't hard to figure out it was time for shift change because we'd hear his booming laugh echoing in the hallway. He always had something funny to say and

See **FUNERAL**, page A2

Swing time

After a silent spring, golfers can hit the links

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

Golf is back in the swing of things in Southwest Michigan, only with a few restrictions put in place by the state to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

After last week's executive order eased some restrictions on outdoor activities, golf courses began adjusting their best practices to allow golfers a chance to relieve some stress on the fairway.

The Golf Course at Harbor Shores opened Friday after spending a week preparing the course.

Josh Doxtator, PGA general manager for Harbor Shores, said the biggest challenge their course has from the latest executive order is how carts are not allowed to be used.

Harbor Shores, which normally hosts the Senior PGA Championship every other year, is known in the area for being a long course to walk.

Because the Benton Harbor course is so spaced out and divided by natural barriers, carts have always been an integral part to navigating the course. Doxtator said playing the course will take time as Harbor Shores is about an 8-mile walk.

"We've seen quite a few rounds being booked," he said. "The walk is long, but it's good if you want to put yourself to the test mentally and physically."

Doxtator said he and his staff are following guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They've also implemented additional

See **GOLFERS**, page A2

Whitmer defends decision to continue state of emergency

By LAUREN GIBBONS
mlive.com

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer defended her legal right to continue Michigan's state of emergency Friday, calling the decision by the legislature not to extend it a political maneuver and the protests that erupted in the Capitol over the issue "disturbing."

Referencing swastikas, Confederate flags and the firearms some of the protesters carried, Whitmer said the protests – during which participants stood shoulder-to-shoulder both inside and outside the Capitol, disregarding social distancing guidelines – don't represent the majority of Michigan residents.

Whitmer said during a Friday news briefing she understands the frustration over the ongoing stay-at-home order to limit the spread of the coronavirus. But she rejected the notion that reopening the economy should be driven by politics, polling, protests or anything other than the latest data and determination from public health experts.

"We're not in a political crisis, where we should just negotiate and find some common ground here," she said. "We're in a public health crisis. We're in the midst of a global pandemic."

Ahead of the governor's comments, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clark Lake, said in a statement that while many of the protest's participants expressed their views safely and responsibly, several "used intimidation and the threat of physical harm to stir up fear and feed rancor."

"Their actions hurt their cause and steal from the rights of others by creating an environment where

See **VIRUS**, page A3

Berrien shifts focus to keeping COVID-19 curve flat

Distance measures remain a key, say health officials

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Local health officials have shifted their thinking from flattening the curve, to how to keep that curve flat.

"Instead of May being the end of things, it's really the beginning of a new season of how are we are living with COVID-19 in our community," said Nicki Britten, health officer for the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD), during a news conference Friday.

Britten said all the steps taken to flatten the curve have been great.

"But we know some things, like closing businesses and other facilities in our community, is not sustainable," she said. "We're trying to monitor how we open things and still keep us below that surge capacity."

Surge capacity refers to how many patients the hospital can handle if there were to be a surge of COVID-19 cases.

Britten said so far, Berrien County has stayed under that, but to stay under that, people still need to be taking precautions as they move around the community.

These precautions include wearing a mask in grocery stores and staying 6 feet away from people while out in public.

She said it also includes protecting the most vulnerable in our community, like people in nursing homes, to try to minimize the number of deaths.

"But we know transmission is going to continue. This virus is going to be with us for a period of time. We really need everybody in the community to be immune, which is going to take a lot of time," Britten said.

In addition, she said the BCHD will continue to have live news conferences on the department's Facebook page at 12:30 p.m. each Friday to give updates to the community.

State of emergency

Berrien County Undersheriff Chuck Heit reported at the news conference that the county extended its local state of emergency this week through May 31.

"This order was extended to continue to allow the Berrien County Emergency Operations Center to operate to support of the Berrien County Health Department and Spectrum Health Lakeland, as well as provide vital resources to fight this pandemic," he said.

The emergency declaration was originally signed March 26 and was extended through April, on April 3.

Friday numbers

The BCHD reported an

See **CURVE**, page A2

Finding a face covering in Southwest Michigan

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

If making a homemade mask is not up your alley, and you don't have a scarf or bandana to wrap around your head, some organizations in Southwest Michigan may be able to help you comply with wearing a face covering while you're in public.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered last week that "any individual able to medically tolerate a face covering must wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth – such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief – when in any enclosed public space."

In addition, all businesses and operations whose workers perform in-person work must, at a minimum, provide non-medical grade face coverings to their workers.

This week, organizations in Van Buren and Cass counties came together to provide lists of places people can get and give homemade fabric face coverings.

In Bangor, masks can be donated and picked up at Simpson United Methodist Church, 507 Joy St., by the sign in front of the building.

In Covert, masks can be donated and picked up from 9-11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at Van Buren United Civic Organization, 73292 34th Ave.,

See **COVERING**, page A2

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Entertainment	C2	Local	B1	Our Town	C4	Religion	C3

Sunday Weather
High 57
Low 46

6 50645 49086 7

FUNERAL

From page A1

was just a complete joy to be around," MacGregor said.

Despite his booming laugh, Nichols was all business on the job.

"Professionally, he was very dedicated. He worked hard and did his utmost to ensure the community could rely on 911 services. His loss is deeply felt by all of us," MacGregor said.

Tony Gousetis said he worked alongside Nichols as one of his supervisors but, more importantly, one of his friends.

"Damon was one of the most intelligent, funny, easy-going people I have ever met. If ever I was having a bad day, as soon as I got to work, Damon would have me laughing within minutes," Gousetis said. "Damon had probably at least a dozen different 'sayings' or catch phrases that he would say, and those same phrases are now used by his co-workers and friends on a daily basis."

A long line of public safety vehicles, representing the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, several area police and fire departments and Medic 1, with lights flashing, escorted Nichols to his final resting place at North Shore Memory Gardens.

The procession made its way under a large American flag suspended over M-63 north of St. Joseph.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

CURVE

From page A1

additional 15 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases Friday, for a total of 263.

That's an increase of 46 cases since Monday.

Also since Monday, 37 more people have recovered, with the total now at 183.

In addition, 15 of the confirmed positive cases have died.

The BCHD's new dashboard, which details the county's COVID-19 data more thoroughly, shows that half of the deaths have been "non-hispanic black" people. Also, most of the deaths have been men. All of the deaths have been people over the age of 50.

The county has 173 presumed positive cases, compared to 165 reported Monday. That number will fluctuate more often as people get test results either positive or negative, according to the BCHD.

As of Friday, there were four people in the intensive care unit at the hospital, and six people hospitalized not in the ICU.

In Van Buren County, 15 people have now recovered and 10 have recovered in Cass County.

The Van Buren Cass District Health Department updates its number of recovered each Friday.

Van Buren County now has 54 positive cases, up from 49 reported Thursday.

Over the week, Van Buren County gained 18 cases.

Cass County is now up to 30 cases. That's an increase of three cases since Monday.

The state and county health departments update the number of positive COVID-19 cases at about 3 p.m. each day. For state numbers, visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Local numbers and information can be found at www.bchdmi.org, and at www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19.

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LOTTERIES

Friday drawings

Michigan

Poker Lotto
KC-JH-2C-5H-5S
Midday Daily 3
9-3-6
Midday Daily 4
9-2-6-7
Daily 3
5-3-6
Daily 4
2-9-4-3
Fantasy 5
09-13-15-32-35
Keno
02-08-12-16-19-21-23-26-30-32-35-40-41-42-44-50-51-53-55-58-78-79
Mega Millions jackpot
$200 million
Powerball jackpot
$51 million

Thursday drawings

Indiana

Cash 5
07-18-25-34-43
Cash4Life
08-17-19-28-44, Cash Ball: 4
Quick Draw Midday
02-03-05-06-08-11-14-19-38-39-42-43-48-49-59-62-63-74-76-78, BE: 76
Daily Three-Midday
4-3-1, SB: 4
Daily Three-Evening
5-8-3, SB: 6
Daily Four-Midday
5-6-2-7, SB: 4
Daily Four-Evening
7-9-7-1, SB: 6
Quick Draw Evening
05-10-22-23-28-33-34-36-38-44-47-49-57-60-61-68-71-75-76-80, BE: 60

Illinois

Lotto
03-26-31-38-46-49, Extra Shot: 16
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
05-22-23-36-44
Estimated jackpot
$300,000
Pick Three-Midday
4-2-7, Fireball: 2
Pick Three-Evening
0-6-1, Fireball: 2
Pick Four-Midday
7-5-4-0, Fireball: 4
Pick Four-Evening
7-2-5-9, Fireball: 4
Lucky Day Lotto
07-16-17-40-42
Estimated jackpot
$350,000

– The Associated Press

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GOLFERS

From page A1

measures of their own.

Restrooms are not open at the clubhouse and face coverings are required for staff members.

"We want people to be safe and have a great experience," Doxtator said. "You limit a lot of things when you don't have access to clubhouse facilities. None of our staff will grab people's bags, we have radio communications and we ask everyone navigate the course with caution."

Because of the size of the property, Doxtator said there were a lot of questions about golf carts. When they got clarification Monday that they were prohibited, they changed course rules.

"We have our share of players who have always wanted to walk the course," Doxtator said. "We have not permitted that in the past because of the pace of play."

Doxtator said he doesn't see the ban of carts being a long-term solution – especially in Michigan, which has the third most courses in the U.S.

"I think there's some opportunities there. We are trying to figure out how we can – in a safe way – find safe shuttle points," Doxtator said. "We have three main areas in long distance between holes and crossing roads. We want something that's similar to the championship when you shuttle caddies and players. Hopefully the state will consider one person at a time."

Jo Ann Smith, co-owner of Blossom Trails Golf Club, said they've been placing hand sanitizer all over their facilities.

With no bathroom access or cart use, Smith said they are also asking golfers to plan ahead.

Don Campbell / HP staff

Golfers walk down the fairway on the third hole Friday morning while playing a round of golf at Harbor Shores. The governor has recently allowed golf courses across the state to open during the COVID-19 pandemic, as long as they follow certain guidelines.

Blossom Trails has been open for a week, opening right after restrictions were lifted.

Since then, Smith said they've added markings on the floor for proper separation. Staff members are also required to wear masks.

The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a blow to Blossom Trails, as typically it is one of the first courses in the area to open in the spring.

Smith said some members are walking the course as soon as it's 45 degrees. Missing out on six weeks of golf play, Smith said they've lost close to $35,000 in revenue.

"I don't know how we're going to recoup that," she said.

When carts are permitted once more, Smith said they've discussed sanitizing every cart and leaving disinfecting wipes with each one.

"It's going to be interesting to see what this year will bring," Smith said. "Time will tell on that."

Matt Flaherty, PGA head golf professional at Pointe O'Woods Golf and Country Club, said they send email blasts to members to keep them up to date of any ongoing changes.

While they won't open the clubhouse and locker rooms or offer carts, Flaherty said they are 100 percent Mother Nature-based at the moment.

"We're walking only," he said. "The golf cart thing is not yet available, with the whole Michigan Golf Alliance sending letters to the governor to show how important it is to get people out in fresh air."

Some of the more nuanced rules they've added include pushing tee times further apart, refraining anyone from removing the flag sticks and cutting foam pool noodles to fit inside the holes so people won't have to dip their hands into the same place.

"Tee markers are the only things on the course. There are no ball washers or rakes. We also removed our water coolers," Flaherty said. "It's a bit primitive. It's not what we like to do, but the fact that ... members can get out is a relief."

Flaherty said the one bonus about members having to walk is the design of the course itself. He said it's very "walker-friendly."

"For mental health and peace of mind, I don't know if there's anything better than a golf course. I feel our game is going to thrive in this new world we live in. It is the epitome of social distancing. The golf course to me is going to be the new safe haven."

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

COVERING

From page A1

and 9-11 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at Covert Township Hall, 73943 Lake St.

In Paw Paw, masks can be donated and picked up 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at United Christian Services, 600 E. Michigan Avenue Annex, Suite 1.

In South Haven, masks are available at First Congregational Church, 651 Phoenix St. in a marked container by the main entrance on the east side of the building. Masks can also be donated.

In Cass County, masks can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at United Presbyterian Church, 209 E. State St., Cassopolis. People are requested to call before arriving.

These locations will accept all pattern varieties of homemade fabric face coverings. For access to the full lists and contact information, visit https://vbcassdhd.org/fabric-face-covering/.

In addition, Facebook groups like "SWMI Mutual Aid" and "Michigan / Indiana Sew You Care" have people making masks for people in need.

Seniors may be able to acquire masks from agencies that serve them, like their local senior centers or the Area Agency on Aging.

The United Way of Southwest Michigan is not currently giving masks to individuals, but it's giving them to area nonprofit organizations to then be distributed to clients they serve.

Fabric face coverings are an additional measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They protect people around the wearer, not the wearer themselves.

Face coverings should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; be secured with ties or ear loops; include multiple layers of fabric; allow for breathing without restriction; and be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

Fabric face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing, according to health officials.

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NOTICE TO POETS

The Poetry Board of the Village of Three Oaks is seeking submissions of original poetry for selection to appoint the official position of Poet Laureate for the Village of Three Oaks.

The Poet Laureate of Three Oaks, upon selection and appointment, will be awarded a $500 Honorarium and will hold the position for the calendar year 2020-2021.

Submissions of (3-5) original poems should be made to:

Harbor Arts
c/o Janet Blake
12136 Tower Hill Road
Sawyer, MI 49125

Or email to info@harborarts.com

Submission deadline is May 15, 2020 and must include: Name, Address, e-mail address, & Telephone Number. The poetry board will reserve the right to publish the submitted works.

The Poet Laureate is sponsored by Allen and Lynn Turner as a program of Harbor Arts.

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	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	Shark Tank CC (DVS)		American Idol The top 20 perform remotely. CC			
CBS 2 3 22	BLINK	NCIS: Los Angeles "Decoy"		SEAL Team Terrorists hijack a plane.		48 Hours (N) CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Holly-wood	Dateline NBC CC				Saturday Night Live (N) CC	
FOX 17 22 28 32	Modern Family	9-1-1 The 118 fights an apartment blaze.		Gordon Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Lawrence Welk	Antiques Roadshow (N) CC		As Time Goes By	As Time Goes By	Keep-Ap-pear	Keep-Ap-pear
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	News	Cops CC
MNT 50	Graham Bensinger	Dateline "The Devil and Bobbi Parker"		Dateline "The Inside Man" CC		Dateline "Family Affair" CC	
WCIU 26	2 Broke Girls	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers
WHME 46	:00 Heart-land	Heartland "Wild One" CC (DVS)		Murdoch Mysteries "Jagged Little Pill"		Murdoch Mysteries CC (DVS)	
WGN 9	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	WGN Weekend News at Nine (N)	
A&E	5:00 Live PD CC	Live PD: Rewind (N) CC		Live PD "Live PD -- 05.02.20" (N) (L) CC			
AMC	5:30 Top Gun	★★★ G.I. Jane ('97) Demi Moore, Viggo Mortensen. A female Navy SEALs recruit completes rigorous training. CC					
Animal	The Zoo	Bronx Tales		The Zoo (N)		Saved By The Barn	
BET	Family	★★ Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married? ('07) Tyler Perry.					
Big Ten	TBA	To Be Announced				Campus	Drive
Bravo	5:30 Movie	Movie CC					Movie CC
Cartoon	Gumball	Dragon	Dragon	Burgers	American	American	Rick
Cinemax	6:35 The Sitter	★★ A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas ('11) CC			★★ Skyscraper ('18, Action) Dwayne Johnson. CC		
CMT	★★ This Is 40 ('12) Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann. CC						Tammy
CNBC	Boss	Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss	
CNN	News	CNN Newsroom		CNN Special		CNN Special	
Comedy	★ CHIPS ('17) Michael Peña. CC				:45 ★★ Super Troopers		
Discovery	Home-stead	Homestead Rescue CC		Dirty Jobs CC		Dirty Jobs CC	
Disney	Raven	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Owl Hse.	Owl Hse.
DIY	Off Grid	Maine Cabin Masters		Maine Cabin Masters		Maine Cabin Masters	
E!	2 Fast	★ The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift				★★ Fast & Furious	
ESPN	To Be Announced						
ESPN2	:00 E:60	E:60 CC		E:60 CC		SportsCenter Special	
ESPNC	:00 College Football CC			College Football From Jan. 3, 2003. CC			
Food	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
Fox News	Life	Watters' World (N)		Justice With Jeanine		Greg Gutfeld	
Fox Sports	Bowling	Red Wings Classics Game 6. (N)				Wingspan	Letter
Freefrm	5:40 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse	:40 ★★ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 ('11) Kristen Stewart. Bella and Edward marry. CC					
FX	★★ Iron Man 2	★★★ Iron Man 3 ('13, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow. A powerful enemy tests Tony Stark's true mettle. CC					
Golf	:00 LPGA Tour Golf CC					PGA Tour Golf CC	
Hallmark	:00 Love in Winterland ('20) Chad Michael Murray. CC			Love and Sunshine ('19, Romance) Danica McKellar, Mark Deklin. CC			
HBO	School of Rock	★★ The Art of Racing in the Rain ('19, Comedy-Drama) Milo Ventimiglia. CC				9:50 We're Here "Twin Falls, Idaho"	
History	Aliens	Ancient Aliens CC		:02 Ancient Aliens		:05 Ancient Aliens	
HGTV	Love-List	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		:01 Love It or List It	
Learning	Gypsy	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé	
Lifetime	Killer in House	Deadly Mile High Club ('20) Allison McAtee, Marc Herrmann. (P). CC				:03 The Madam of Purity Falls ('19)	
MSNBC	MSNBC	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Catfish	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Insd.	Chicago Blackhawks Classics					White
NFL	Football	A Football Life		A Football Life		A Football Life	
Nick	Loud	To Be Announced		Dylan	Sponge.	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Drugs,	Drugs, Inc. "Boston Benzo Buzz" (N) CC				:03 Drugs, Inc. (N)	
Oxygen	:00 Cold Justice	Cold Justice "Holding Onto Hope"		Cold Justice "Fatal Betrayal" CC		Snapped A young father is ambushed.	
Parmt	Longest	★★ Major League ('89) Tom Berenger. CC					Talladega
Showtime	:00 Bil-lions	Billions "Elmsley Count" CC		Red Joan ('18) Judi Dench, Sophie Cookson. (P). CC			:45 Mile 22
Starz	:27 ★★ Vantage Point ('08) Dennis Quaid. CC			Outlander "Mercy Shall Follow Me"		:02 Vida CC	Black Hawk
STZENC	5:58 Platoon	★★★ Predator ('87, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Carl Weathers. CC				9:49 ★★ Predator 2 ('90) CC	
SyFy	6:30 ★★ The Hitman's Body-guard ('17) Ryan Reynolds.			★★ xXx: Return of Xander Cage ('17) Vin Diesel, Donnie Yen. CC (DVS)			
TBS	6:30 ★★ Justice League ('17) Ben Affleck. CC (DVS)			Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
TCM	2001: Odyssey	★★★★ Singin' in the Rain ('52) Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds. CC (DVS)				★★ Francis ('49) Patricia Medina	
TMC	6:45 ★★★ Twelve Monkeys ('95) Bruce Willis. CC			★★ Species ('95, Science Fiction) Ben Kingsley, Michael Madsen. CC			
TNT	★★ The Legend of Tarzan ('16) CC (DVS)					Pirates: Dead	
Travel	Paranorm.	Paranormal 911		Paranormal 911 (N)		Par. Nightmare	
TV Land	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men
USA	Captain America	★★★ Iron Man ('08) Robert Downey Jr. A billionaire dons an armored suit to fight criminals. CC					Captain America
VH1	Love Cost	★★★ Drumline ('02) Nick Cannon. CC					ATL
WGN-A	:00 Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods "The Forgotten"		Blue Bloods A journal-ist goes missing.		Blue Bloods "Erasing History"	

Bride chooses not to walk down the aisle with her dad

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: For some reason, my father hates my fiance to the point where, when I stayed with my fiance for one day, Dad wouldn't allow me to come home. Dad said many nasty things after eventually letting me back home, but among the more hurtful ones were that he hoped my fiance would abuse me, and that I shouldn't be allowed to get married. He doesn't remember saying them, but I remember them well.

Only my immediate family and my fiance's family know the specifics, and whenever I say I would rather have my brother walk me down the aisle, my relatives are all in disbelief. Dad has come to terms with my engagement to my fiance, but he treats him differently compared to my older sister's boyfriend. Am I really in the wrong for not wanting him to escort me? – Misunderstood Bride-To-Be

DEAR MISUNDERSTOOD: Does your father have a substance abuse problem? An anger management problem? Under the circumstances, it is understandable that you would prefer someone else walk you down the aisle.

Your fiance must be a saint to want to enter a marriage with a built-in in-law problem like your dad. My advice is to do what is best for the two of you, including considering an elopement.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a girl in my teens. My best friend moved away, and I miss her so much. It feels like the world has turned against me, and I am depressed.

I don't like to text her, and I don't think she would let me call her every single day, although I haven't asked. I'm afraid we're not going to be friends anymore, and I feel so distant from my other friends. I made a new friend this year, but it isn't the same.

What should I do, Abby? Do I talk to her about it? Or should I stop being her friend? – Missing My Best Friend

DEAR MISSING: It is painful when life separates people. As you pointed out, friendships, unlike Lego blocks, are not interchangeable. Do not suddenly stop communicating with your friend. You should absolutely talk to her and tell her how you are feeling because she may be feeling the same way.

With more time, you will get past this. You will meet more people and establish new relationships. But in the meantime, try to stay busy, which will help you feel less isolated.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Afraid of becoming a stepmom

Carolyn Hax

HI, CAROLYN: I've recently started dating someone wonderful. He's extremely caring, considerate, thoughtful and loving.

Here's the "catch": He's divorced, with kids. I'm finding it hard to come to terms with what it would be like to be a stepmom to his children, and how that would impact my life. It's giving me pause on wanting to continue to build a relationship with him when I know eventually he will want me to step into the "mom" role.

Full disclosure – I do want to have children and know I will make a great mom, but I was hoping it would be two or three years down the road, and not six months.

I really would like to continue to date him, but I don't think it's fair if I cannot accept all of his situation. Then again, I feel like my fear may be unfounded and I would miss out on a great relationship. – Scared Potential Mom

SCARED POTENTIAL MOM: Why can't it still be two or three years down the road? Who says that if you become a stepmother, then it has to happen in the next six months?

Just admit to him that you're (still) a bit freaked out by his having kids, but you want to keep dating him – you just need to proceed even more slowly than slowly.

At least then he's not guessing at what's on your mind ... and he has the chance to end it if he's not comfortable with your discomfort ... and you won't be blindsiding him if you decide one day that you're not willing to become a stepparent. Honest and transparent procrastination hits on all the important points, far as I can tell.

I do caution against the "fear of missing out" perspective on dating. Stay because it's good now, not because it has the potential to become something you'll regret not having later. The latter triggers our tendency to pretty up our interpretations of reality to fit the story we've written, when our best bet is letting reality tell us exactly what it wants to say. It can be hard to keep a clear mind, but worth trying.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

VIRUS

From page A1

responsible citizens do not feel safe enough to express themselves," he said. "At best, those so-called protestors are a bunch of jackasses."

Whitmer and the Republican-majority legislature appear to be headed to a legal battle over the governor's authority to maintain a state of emergency without legislative approval.

The legislature opted not to extend the state's COVID-19 state of emergency during session Thursday. Many Republicans argued Whitmer has gone too far with her emergency authority and hasn't consulted the legislature enough, and resolutions passed in both the House and Senate give leadership the authority to sue the governor over it.

"If she does not recognize the end of the emergency declaration, we have no other choice but to act for our constituents," Shirkey said in a floor speech Thursday evening.

Before the legislatively-approved emergency expired at 11:59 p.m. Thursday night, Whitmer declared the state of emergency wasn't over, issuing a trio of new executive orders that would extend the state of emergency through May 28.

She said Friday that regardless of the disagreement, an emergency remains in effect, adding, "no one should be rushing the gun and playing fast and loose" in restarting sectors of the economy that haven't been deemed low-risk enough yet.

Whitmer said the legislation passed Thursday to extend a select group of her executive orders is both statutorily and constitutionally flawed, and said even if it weren't, she'd have to veto it because the bill was not given immediate effect.

While Republicans say a 1976 emergency law giving the governor 28 days to act unilaterally without legislative input on a state of emergency means Whitmer needs their approval, Whitmer cites a broader 1945 law on the books that does not require legislative buy-in.

"It was an intentional decision to keep both of these sources of authority for the chief executive of the state of Michigan," she said. "It is for times like these that that authority is really important."

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Luggage
4 Place for a pint
7 Ambition
11 Refinery shipment
12 Leap in a tutu
13 Singer Paul —
14 Harvest Moon mo.
15 Fiery gem
16 Egyptian goddess
17 Threadbare
19 Doctrine
21 Codgers' queries
22 Coolidge or Gam
23 Linguine topper
26 Paton or Thicke
28 Chop weeds
29 Brownish-purple
31 Trail mix
35 Machu Picchu builder
37 Oboe need
39 Misfortune
40 Nape knots
42 Column order
44 Grime
46 "Gross!"
47 Legends
49 Dues payer
53 He loved Lucy
54 Planets or moons
56 Application
57 Bullfight shouts
58 Limerick writer
59 High pt.
60 Interlock
61 That ship
62 Waterlily leaf

DOWN
1 Cries of disapproval
2 Foot part
3 — — grip!
4 Diary keeper
5 Ms. Hagen
6 Pulley part
7 Getting closer
8 Beginning
9 Japanese canine
10 — Vegas
12 Jump from gig to gig (hyph.)
18 Poker stake
20 Time period
23 Sorority letter
24 Long time
25 Brut
26 Winning serves
27 Protective shelter
30 Coffee brewer
32 Pay for
33 Pierre's monarch
34 Chest muscle
36 Revoke
38 Summary
41 Mormon predecessor
43 German physicist
44 Archeology find
45 Camel halts
46 Earth tone
48 Second-year student, for short
50 Road flaw
51 This, in Baja
52 Tear to bits
53 Benedictine title
55 Fish eggs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	A	C	K		L	A	D		G	U	N	G
I	R	A	N		E	R	E		O	R	E	O
G	I	G	A		A	K	A		V	A	S	T
	D	E	C	A	F		D	W	E	L	T	
			K	A	Y		P	A	R			
G	N	A	S	H		F	A	I	N	T	S	
A	U	G				A	N	T		W	A	R
G	N	U		Y	A	K				I	N	D
	S	E	C	E	D	E		B	I	T	E	S
			I	C	H		P	E	T			
	L	I	T	H	E		U	N	C	A	P	
M	I	N	I		R	I	D		H	I	E	D
P	E	K	E		E	R	G		E	D	N	A
G	U	Y	S		S	K	Y		D	A	S	H

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JUMBLE

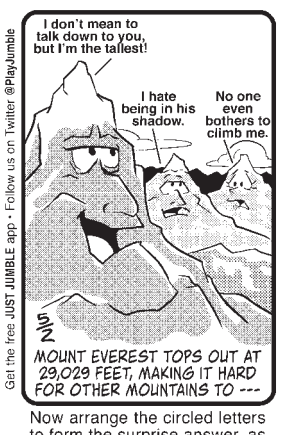
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NEEUV

GUHRO

GMYUSL

YAAAPP


I don't mean to talk down to you, but I'm the tallest!
I hate being in his shadow.
No one even bothers to climb me.
MOUNT EVEREST TOPS OUT AT 29,029 FEET, MAKING IT HARD FOR OTHER MOUNTAINS TO ---

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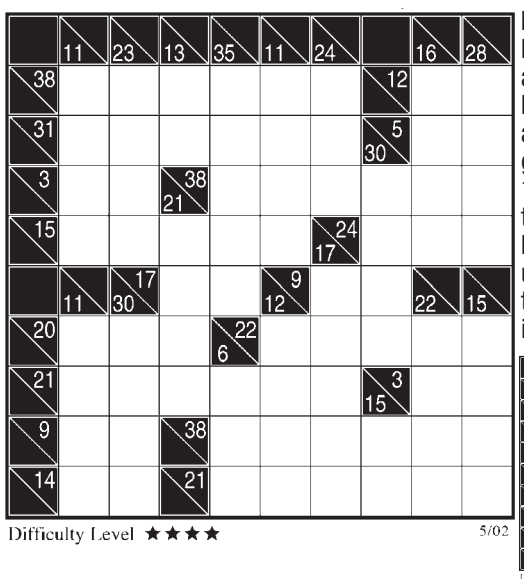
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers Monday)

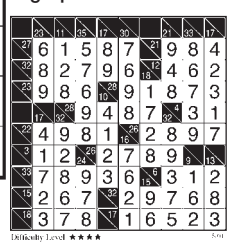
Yesterday's Jumbles: PAUSE GIVEN BATTEN PROVEN
Answer: The mountaintop basketball court featured — VANTAGE POINTS

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/02

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

George Carlin cracked, "If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?"

Four cards in the deck have multiple personalities. Which are they, and how did one play a key role in today's deal?

South was in four spades. West led the diamond two. East won with the king, cashed the diamond ace and, inaccurately, continued with a third round of the suit. (If East had shifted to a club, the contract would have had no chance.) How should South have continued after ruffing the third diamond?

North's four-heart response was a Texas transfer to four spades, guaranteeing at least a six-card suit.

Declarer did not look optimistically at his dummy. Based on the bidding and early play, surely West had the heart ace and club king.

Then South noticed that he had some useful heart spots, including dummy's valuable 10.

Declarer drew trumps ending on the board, then ran the heart 10. Yes, it lost to West's jack, but what could West do now?

If he shifted to a club, South could win with his nine and lead the heart king to ruff away West's ace. Then a second club would disappear from the board on the heart queen.

If West returned a low heart, declarer would win with his eight and again take the ruffing finesse through West's ace. Finally, West's leading the heart ace or heart nine would be equally futile.

Did you see the necessity to "finesse" the heart 10?

Why does a 10 have multiple personalities? Because it is both an honor card and a spot card.

North 05-02-20
♠ K J 10 9 6 5
♥ 10
♦ J 6 4
♣ Q J 8

West
♠ 3
♥ A J 9 7 4 2
♦ Q 8 2
♣ K 5 2

East
♠ 4 2
♥ 6 5
♦ A K 10 7 5
♣ 7 6 4 3

South
♠ A Q 8 7
♥ K Q 8 3
♦ 9 3
♣ A 10 9

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
1NT	2♥	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 2

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

5					1		4	
8			7	4		5		
1			3	8		9		
		2			4			
6				3				1
			6			4		
		8		7	9			4
		7		2	3			6
	3		4					2

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	3	6	9	8	1	7	5	4
7	9	1	6	5	4	3	2	8
8	5	4	2	3	7	6	1	9
3	4	7	5	6	8	1	9	2
1	8	5	7	2	9	4	3	6
6	2	9	4	1	3	8	7	5
9	7	2	3	4	6	5	8	1
5	6	8	1	7	2	9	4	3
4	1	3	8	9	5	2	6	7

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How to counter Chinese pressure on Hollywood

Jonah Goldberg

During the filming of the 1939 movie "Jesse James," a stuntman and his horse went over a cliff and fell 70 feet into a river. The stuntman was fine; the horse died. This incident is what gave rise to that line at the end of many movies: "No animals were harmed in the making of this film." The American Humane Association, which trademarked that saying, worked out a deal with the Screen Actors Guild and the precursor to the Motion Picture Association of America in which filmmakers would vouch that animals were well treated in movies.

Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., thinks this might be a good model for how the U.S. can push back against China's global influence.

In the last decade or so, Hollywood has acquiesced to countless demands from China. In the (horrible) 2012 remake of the movie "Red Dawn," the plan was to depict American resistance to a Chinese invasion. (In the original it was a Soviet invasion). After the filming was finished, MGM caved to pressure from China and reedited the film to turn the invaders into North Koreans for fear of losing access to the Chinese market.

If that were the only example, one might cut the then-cash-strapped studio some slack. But Hollywood does this all the time.

The 2016 film "Dr. Strange" changed a character from a Tibetan monk to a Celtic woman played by Tilda Swinton. Brad Pitt was banned from China for several years because he starred in "Seven Years in Tibet" (as were the director and a co-star). Richard Gere's career took a hit because of his outspoken support for Tibet. Studios often won't cast him for fear of angering the Chinese Communist Party, which has been inflicting cultural genocide on Tibet for decades. For the upcoming "Top Gun" sequel, China is assumed to have forced the studio to change Tom Cruise's flight jacket so that the Taiwan flag no longer appears. (Our ally is not a sovereign country, according to Beijing.)

It would be wrong and unworkable to ban movie studios from kowtowing to Chinese demands. It's called show business, not show politics. China is on course to become the biggest single market for film and television, and while it may be cowardly and hypocritical for an industry that wears its idealism on its sleeve to placate a nation that bans free expression and is hauling Uighurs into concentration camps, we shouldn't follow suit by restricting free expression here at home.

But that doesn't mean we can't impose a little truth-in-labeling on the industry. That's Gallagher's idea (which he proposed on a recent episode of my podcast, The Remnant). Congress should require American studios to disclose whether a film has been altered in any way to meet the approval of China's censorious regime. You know how TV networks inform viewers that a film has been altered for television? Why not notify viewers if a film has been changed to conform with Chinese propaganda?

At the beginning or end of a movie, American audiences would have to be informed: "This film has been altered to fit the demands of the Chinese Communist Party." Obviously, the Chinese wouldn't allow that disclaimer in their theaters, but at least Americans would know. Hopefully that would apply a little democratic counterpressure to China's undemocratic pressure.

Gallagher also suggests that American social media platforms be required to ban officials from nations that ban free speech on their own social media platforms. Why should authoritarian propagandists be afforded privileges that they won't grant their own people?

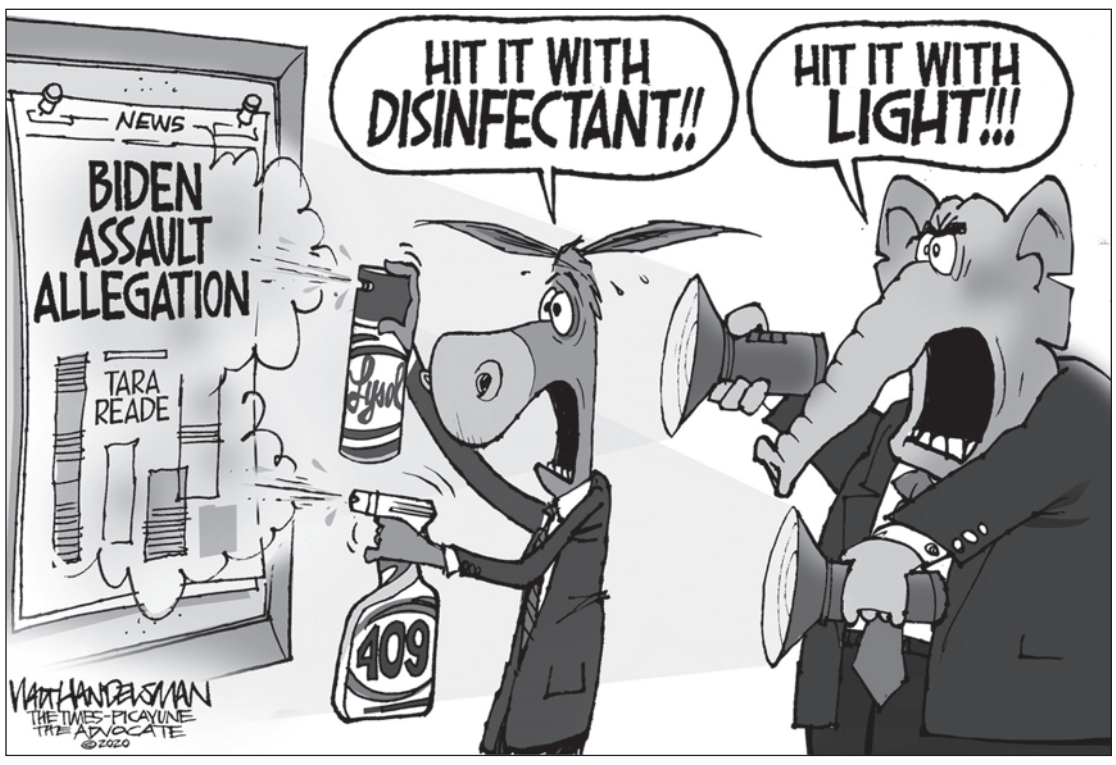
No one wants a war with China. But we already live in a world where China is exerting itself on America. Right now, we impose little to no costs on them to do so, in part because we live in a free country where businesses, including Hollywood studios, are largely free to cut whatever deals fit their own bottom lines. Curtailing such mercenary practices without mimicking China's command-and-control tactics is difficult. Forcing full disclosure on businesses that play such games – perhaps including those that allow their intellectual property to be stolen in order to maintain access to the Chinese market – strikes me as a brilliant way to counter the trend.

Let American consumers know the full truth. If they don't care, the studios can carry on. If they do care, make filmmakers pay the price for their pursuit of profit over principle – not by being dragged off in the middle of the night, but at the box office.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

Trump, the king of sarcasm ... not

Leonard Pitts



Dear Donald Trump:

Man, I have to admit it. You really got me good.

When you looked straight at Dr. Deborah Birx last week and started musing how people might be able to cure COVID-19 by exposure to ultraviolet light or injecting household disinfectants, I thought you were serious. I said to myself: "Wow, Donald Trump just seriously suggested people should shoot up with Lysol." The makers of Lysol even felt the need to issue a statement asking people not to take their product internally.

So you can imagine my surprise the next day when you explained, "I was asking a question sarcastically to reporters ... just to see what would happen." Ha-ha! Good one, Mr. President. You really had me going. I mean, the way you addressed Dr. Birx while talking to reporters, the way you gave absolutely no hint that you weren't in earnest. Wow. Bravo.

Then, as if that weren't enough, you tweeted two days later that reporters should return the "Noble Prizes" they won for reporting on "Russia, Russia, Russia." Many people jumped on that, accusing you of simultaneously misidentifying a famous journalism prize and misspelling another prize that's given to important scientists, iconic literary figures and to great leaders like Barack Obama.

When I heard about your tweet, I was in the kitchen cooking up a complicated chicken dish. Boy, I nearly dropped my Pullet Surprise all over the floor. Is he out of his mind? I asked out loud. And was I ever embarrassed when you deleted those tweets a few hours later and tweeted – ha ha ha! – that you were just kidding us again. What a rascal you are.

It must be so hard to have people always misunderstanding you. In one tweet you asked, "Does sarcasm ever work?"

I don't blame you for being exasperated. But you have to understand that you are processing things on a level most of us can't even conceive. I mean, with meat packers warning of food shortages, the economy in ruins, America leading the world in coronavirus cases and the death toll set to soon surpass the 58,000 who died in Vietnam, most people would consider this a time for serious, sober analysis.

Who but you would have realized it's actually a time for hijinks?

Well, not hijinks, exactly. That word implies humor that is fun or carefree. Sarcasm is more arch and acidic than that. Merriam-Webster describes it as "sharp and often satirical or ironic ... designed to cut or give pain." Indeed, sarcasm is often expressed in saying the opposite of what you mean. Like when you dub a fat guy, "Tiny" or a tall guy "Shorty." Or like when you call a bunch of goobers geniuses.

But you already know all of this, don't you? Yours is one of the great minds in America today, if not in the whole world. Many people are saying you're the best president, ever. And we sure are lucky to have you leading us through this crisis. The way you've handled it has been beautiful. Your press conferences have been perfect. You've used the best words and had the best people.

Would Obama or Bush have done a better job? Would Clinton or Carter or Eisenhower or Coolidge or McKinley or Harrison or Grant or Fillmore or Polk or Van Buren or, indeed, anyone who has ever been president at any time in all of American history? I think we both know the answer to that.

I have to say, though, that I'm sorry to hear you're having doubts about the power of sarcasm, wondering if it works. That's long been one of my favorite rhetorical devices and I've always found it worked just fine. But if you disagree, I suppose I'll have to reconsider using sarcasm from now on.

After all, you're never wrong.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald. lpitts@miamiherald.com.

LETTERS

Governor's restrictions are defensible

Editor,

Even during a pandemic it's self-evident that essential work should be performed. What's far from obvious is which jobs are indispensable.

With the approach of COVID-19, business as usual was unsustainable. Michigan's only responsible choice was to impose new restrictions on its citizens.

What process guided the formulation of new regulations? Many prognosticators and past history gave guidance to prepare for a pandemic. What plans did Michigan have ready? Did the state ignore the assurances from Washington that "coronovirus is very much under control" and prepare on its own initiative? Which health experts, members of the executive and legislative branches and others were consulted?

Details on the deliberation would give better grounds for judging orders issued. Given what I've read, the governor's decisions seem quite defensible. Michigan had confirmed cases. Overseas, thousands had died. Important characteristics of the deadly virus were (and are) ill-defined. Better to take prompt action than spending time on perfecting regulations. Delay could result in our hospitals and medical personnel being overwhelmed. Better to focus on preserving the most precious of all our gifts: human life.

This is not to deny that some of the regulations may have made questionable or inconsistent distinctions. Nor that some placed on the wrong side of a line had legitimate grievances.

How to improve the initial order? Circumstances and understandings evolve. Others' views should be carefully considered. The broader the consensus reached, the likelier the public will endorse its implementation.

Legislative attempts to redefine the executive authority in times of crisis signaled more interest in political posturing then constructive dialogue. Still, hope remains for more responsible engagement since legislative leaders avoided calling for "liberating" Michigan as if we were Axis occupied.

The Herald-Palladium reported Berrien County advocates varying restrictions within Michigan. But the account left unclear what authority was requested for counties or regions. The county's letter seems more nebulous aspiration than operational plan.

Regional advisory boards may have merit. But it's dangerous to view Southeast Michigan as an isolated island. There the epidemic has burned brightest. Controlling the blaze has been a mighty struggle. It's our duty to prevent a spark from Berrien County rekindling it.

Citizens certainly have a right to advocate for better regulations. But people with good judgment don't closely assemble on the Capitol step displaying automatic weapons or wave Confederate flags.

Mitch McConnell, the most powerful Republican in Congress opined that he was fine with states declaring bankruptcy. The same McConnell shepherded a provision in the COVID-19 relief act giving tens of billions of dollars to 43,000 millionaires. Mitch knows who makes political donations.

The pandemic lowered the revenues of state and local governments and required them to spend more. Like small businesses and individuals, they need help. Public safety, roads, schools, hospitals are threatened. Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., called McConnell's remark "shameful and indefensible." But Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., is mute on Mitch. He should stand up for Michigan. Federal aid to the states truly is essential work. If Upton won't do it, we need someone who will.

Vance Senecal
St. Joseph

GUEST COLUMN

No parade today, but Blossomtime will be back

By ANNA ABDELNOUR

Influenced by a growing agricultural industry in 1906, Rev. W. J. Cady of the First Congregational Church in Benton Harbor was the first to urge his parishioners to drive through the orchards and view the fruit blossoms. Cady termed them "symbols of life renewed" and his sermon is credited with the birth of the Blossomtime Festival. I am sure he never dreamed that his words would still be an inspiration for the festival and would be so fitting in these trying times 114 years later.

This year was different from any other for Blossomtime, as the world has been facing the Coronavirus. Blossomtime has canceled or postponed many events, not a decision taken lightly but one we know is the best for all.

Today, May 2, the Grand Floral Parade would have kicked off in St. Joseph and ending in Benton Harbor for the 69th consecutive year. On parade day each year we witness many favorites from the past, while always looking forward to seeing all the young people. Thank you to all the entrants who would have participated in the parade to make this a special day for so many. As a resident of Southwest Michigan, my heart swells with pride watching the public stand, clap, and cheer for the parade entries. I am sad this year the parade will not be taking place. As with many of you, I have fond memories of the parade and look so forward to it each year. May 2 is a day that I and many will feel a tremendous loss.

In 1923, the first Grand Floral Parade was held on a Wednesday afternoon. Since then it has become a tradition in Southwest Michigan each May. In 1943, the festival temporarily ceased until the conclusion of World War II. Starting up again and continuous since 1951, the parade has become a part of our fabric in the Twin Cities of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph. We will always remember 2020 as the year the Grand Floral Parade was canceled.

I am sure whoever coined the phrase "it takes a village" had no idea how relevant this term would be regarding our Grand Floral Parade. Our parade takes a village – over 21 villages and communities to be exact. Each year these communities participate along with hundreds of volunteers to make the Grand Floral Parade the crown jewel of Southwest Michigan.

Thank you, to all the communities and their chairpeople for supporting the festival and for your continued support. I know we all are sad for 2020 however I believe we have made the right decision. We will be back in 2021 and our commitment to you will be to bring all of Southwest Michigan back together again to celebrate with our greatest parade ever.

To the cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, thank you very much for always supporting this annual event. This festival and parade would not be possible without the continuous support of the two host cities. Blossomtime has always been honored to showcase these two beautiful cities and we are so proud to have you both as our host communities.

Thank you, St. Joseph and Benton Harbor city officials and all the public servants. Thank you for your dedication, time and talent that you provide to the Blossomtime Festival each year.

I would like to salute the young people of the festival. I know its hard to understand these decisions and downright sad. We can't make up some of the events and I know its heartbreaking. I pray that you will someday understand and remember you are our future and that you will lead us into greatness. You certainly have it in you.

I have lived many places in this wonderful country, but I have never witnessed anything quite like this before … true community spirit coming together. A rare slice of Americana right here in Southwestern Michigan. I am proud to be a part of the Blossomtime Festival.

I ask you to please continue to support our communities and the Blossomtime Festival. This upcoming year we will need your help and support more than ever. Please stay safe during these times and thank you always for supporting us.

Anna Abdelnour is president of the Bloosomtime Festival board of directors.

OBITUARIES

Alfred Bell Edwards

April 8, 1925 – April 21, 2020

Alfred B. Edwards was a man of God, husband, father, uncle, friend and police officer. "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity," Titus 2:7 (NIV). Alfred B. Edwards exemplified this Bible verse throughout his life. Therefore, it should come as no surprise the imprint he had on others who came to know him. His faith was the foundation of who he aspired to be.

He was married to Virginia for 66 years, until her death in 2015. Alfred always made his family's safety and well-being a priority. Their life was built on mutual devotion and respect. Alfred set examples for his three children that reflected his honesty and integrity, while also encouraging them to find their own spiritual path. As his health conditioned changed, Alfred moved to Grand Rapids, Mich. He received unlimited care and support from his children, who attended to his every need and desire.

Friendships were easily forged for Alfred. From his time on the police force to his membership at Second Baptist Church and as a chartering member of the Charmers (formerly Squaws, Inc.), these relationships lasted a lifetime. Combined with his contagious sense of humor and his love of cooking, he enjoyed the company of others frequently. Alfred was a member of the Benton Harbor Police Department for 25 years, first as a patrolman, then eventually promoted through the ranks to detective lieutenant. His indoctrination to the force in the 1950s provided the city its first integrated police force and history was made.

On April 21, 2020, Alfred, 95, joined his beloved wife in God's heavenly kingdom.

Honoring his life and legacy are daughters, Cheryl (Larry) Cannon of Belmont, Mich., and Dr. Lisa (Ralph) Johnson of Warrensville Heights, Ohio; grandchildren, Cameron Johnson and Janae (Andre) Gilbert; and one great-grandson, Aiden. More than 20 nieces and nephews called him "Uncle Al." Lastly, two special friends, Charles (Liz) Chatman of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Pete (Julie) Urness of Benton Harbor.

His son, Chad, preceded him in death in 2014.

A Celebration of Al's Life will be held at noon on Saturday, May 16. To join the virtual service go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83750821344 Meeting ID: 837 5082 1344. Interment will be conducted at noon on Saturday, June 13, in North Shore Memory Gardens, Benton Harbor. Family and friends are invited for fellowship and storytelling immediately following. The location will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial donation in Alfred's name to: Clark Retirement Community Foundation, 1551 Franklin St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506 or to Second Baptist Church, 600 Donald Adkins Dr., Benton Harbor, MI 49022. Please visit pedersonfuneralhome.com for more information or to leave a message or memory.

Arrangements are entrusted to Pederson Funeral Home, Rockford, Mich., (616) 866-1515.

Patricia I. Reynolds

March 17, 1931 – April 25, 2020

Patricia I. Reynolds, 89, of Coloma passed away at home with family beside her on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Pat was born on March 17, 1931, to Lyle and Margaret Stanley. She grew up in Watervliet and worked at VM Corporation for several years. She met the love of her life in 1948, and knew immediately that she would marry him. She married Richard Reynolds on Aug. 26, 1950, and they moved to their permanent home in Coloma in 1959. She spent her time being a devoted wife, mother to her children and caregiver for many elder relatives. Pat was always making pies, cakes, cookies and candies to give to family and friends. She crafted many things over the years to give to people in need such as scarves, hats, slippers, baby blankets and photo albums, and created numerous other items as gifts for people just to make them smile. She was constantly doing for others, always trying to make their lives better. She was a member of the Watervliet Free Methodist Church.

Pat leaves precious memories in the hearts of her children, Brigg (Carolyn) Reynolds, Judy Reynolds and Janet Reynolds; grandchildren, Alan (Sarah) Hembree and Nicole (Shorty) Van Wy; great-grandsons, Jared Pecoraro and Cody (Olivia) Hembree; and stepgreat-grandsons, Isaiah and David. She is also survived by siblings, Raymond (Jean) Stanley and Marcia Boyd; many nieces and nephews; and numerous friends.

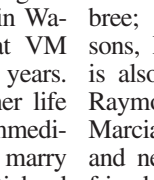
She is preceded in death by her husband, Richard, in 2009; daughter, Kathy in 1954; granddaughter, Krista Hembree in 1985; parents; and siblings: Clifford Stanley, Wanda Foster, Bernard Stanley, Dale Stanley and Gary Stanley.

Many thanks to Caring Circle for giving Pat the option to pass in the comfort of her own home.

Memorial contributions may be made in Pat's name to the charity of the donor's choice. Arrangements are being handled by Purely Cremations in Benton Harbor. To share a story or offer online condolences, go to www.purelycremations.org.

Betty Jean Davis

April 13, 1930 – April 30, 2020



Betty Jean Davis, 90, of Coloma went to be with her Lord Jesus on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at Pine Ridge Nursing Home in Stevensville.

Due to current circumstances, private family services will be held at Duffield & Pastrick Funeral Home in Coloma, followed by burial in Coloma Cemetery. Memorials may be made to First Church of God in St. Joseph. Those wishing to leave a message for the family online may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Betty was born in Lansing, Mich., on April 13, 1930, the daughter of William and Margaret Drew. She had just recently celebrated her 90th birthday. On the first day following her high school graduation, she joined the Black Ace Motorcycle Group of Benton Harbor. Several years later in 1951, she married Robert Davis. Together they raised their three sons and enjoyed 41 years of marriage before Robert's passing in 1992. Her love for motorcycle riding continued with her husband.

Betty loved the outdoors and enjoyed riding her bike, swimming and fishing. She found happiness spending time with children and loved to play Wiffle ball with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed baking and canning.

Her favorite flowers were lilacs. She enjoyed people and could strike up a conversation with anyone. For a number of years Betty was a caregiver for the elderly.

Betty is survived by three sons, Roy (Diana) Davis of Coloma, William (Jody) Davis of Watervliet and Randy Davis of Osceola, Ind.; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Robert; and her sister, Louise Lesch.

Carolyn Ruth Ziemer

June 14, 1924 – April 29, 2020

Carolyn Ruth Ziemer, 95, of St. Joseph passed away Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at The Whitcomb Senior Living Community, where she most recently resided.

Private family services will be held due to the COVID-19 precautions. Private burial will take place in Riverview Cemetery, St. Joseph. Memorial donations in Carolyn's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association-Greater Lakes Chapter-Kalamazoo or Caring Circle Hospice. Those wishing to sign Carolyn's memory book online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Carolyn was born June 14, 1924, in Menasha, Wis., to Gustav and Ruth (Rutkoskie) Steinke. The family moved to St. Joseph and she graduated from St. Joseph High School, class of 1942. On Nov. 3, 1946, she married Ewald Ziemer at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Benton Harbor. In addition to being a wife and mother, Carolyn served as the bookkeeper at the family business, E-Z Tool & Engineering in Stevensville. She was an active member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. In her free time, Carolyn enjoyed tending to her flower gardens around the house.

Carolyn is survived by four children: Robert (Jane) Ziemer of Kalamazoo, Thomas (Marcia) Ziemer of Jenison, Mich., Karyl Ziemer of Wyoming, Mich., and Sharon Lieberman of Buffalo Grove, Ill.; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ewald, on Sept. 1, 1997; her parents; and four siblings: John "Bill" Steinke, James Steinke, Agnes Steinke and Cathryn Steinke.

Barbara Rice

Nov. 15, 1935 – April 29, 2020

Barbara Rice, 84, formerly of St. Joseph went to meet her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at Pine Ridge Nursing Facility in Stevensville, where she most recently resided.

Private family services will be held due to the current COVID-19 restrictions. A Celebration of Life Eternal will be announced at a later date. Burial will take place in North Shore Memory Gardens in Coloma. Memorial donations in Barb's name may be made to Crystal Springs Church of God. Those wishing to sign Barb's memory book online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Barb was born Nov. 15, 1935, in Benton Harbor, to Willard and Martha (Skelley) Carpp. She graduated from Benton Harbor High School, Class of 1954. On Feb. 18, 1956, she married William "Bill" Rice in St. Joseph. Barb worked for 13 years at Williams Bros. Box Factory in St. Joseph, as well as taking care of her duties as a wife and mother. She was a former member of First Church of God in St. Joseph, where she taught Sunday school, worked in the nursery and was active in the WCG (Women of the Church of God). Most recently she was a member of Crystal Springs Church of God in Benton Harbor. Barb enjoyed reading her Bible and cherished the time spent with her family, especially the grand- and great-grandchildren.

Barb was a loving, friendly and outgoing person who will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Barb is survived by her children, Leah Rice of Bridgman, Clint (Christina) Rice of Stevensville, Wes (Chris) Rice of Spring Lake, Mich., and Sam Rice of Three Rivers; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bill; and two brothers, Willard and David Carpp.

Lisa Foster

Nov. 26, 1962 – April 28, 2020

On Tuesday, April 28, 2020, Lisa Foster, wife, mother, daughter, sister and grandmother, passed away after a very courageous battle with cancer. Lisa was lovingly taken care of in her last days by her lifelong friend, Julie Soumis.

Lisa will be forever remembered by her husband and best friend, Bill Foster Jr.; her son, Vaughn Jacob Stecker; and Bill's children, Aric Foster (Miracle), Sara Clemm Von Hohenburg (Elmar), Allyse Foster (Ryan), Emily Price (David) and Stefany Holland (Mike). Lisa will be also be fondly remembered by her sisters and brother, Laurie Baker (Charles), Nicole Hulsebos (Kris) and Scott Anderson (Gina); and her in-laws, Tim Foster (Nikki), Joe Foster (Terrie), Cathy Rawson (David) and Jeff Foster (Tony). Lisa is survived by her mother, Joy Doggett (Ray); father-in-law, Bill Foster Sr.; 10 adorable grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Lisa was preceded in death by her father, Ronald Anderson.

Lisa lived a life of service as a practicing nurse, working in the health field for many years. She treasured working with her patients. On Jan. 30, 2015, she married Bill Foster Jr. She lived life to its fullest, traveling with her husband, Bill, and winning top honors in a women's pool championship. Most important to her was the time spent with her dear son, Jacob.

A private mass will be held in honor of Lisa. A celebration of Lisa's life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations in memory of Lisa can be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123. The family has entrusted Calvin Funeral Home, Hartford, with arrangements. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.calvin-leonardfh.com.

Paul 'Brad' Heppler

Oct. 25, 1951 – April 29, 2020

Paul "Brad" Heppler, 68, of Galien passed away on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at The Timbers of Cass County. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sommerfeld Chapel, 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo.

Brad was born on Oct. 25, 1951, in Michigan City, Ind., to the late Paul and Jane (Price) Heppler. He was a 1969 graduate of New Buffalo High School. Brad served his country during the Vietnam War while in the U.S. Marines. He loved the outdoors, especially deer hunting, fishing and golf. Brad worked in construction and was very proud of the improvements he did to his home. He had a great sense of humor and was an avid Detroit Lions football fan. Brad will be missed by family and his many friends.

Brad is survived by his sister, Sandra (Heppler) Orange of Union Pier; and his brother, Perry (Maria) Heppler of St. Joseph; and Alex Rogers, whom Brad loved as a son.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Jane Heppler; and his son, Paul Heppler Jr.

A private Celebration of Life service will be held. Memorial contributions may be made to Animal Aid of Southwestern Michigan, P.O. Box 407, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Friends wishing to leave the family a message of condolence may do so at www.sommerfeldchapel.com.

Death notices

Woodrow "Woody" Counts, 100, formerly of Stevensville died April 28, 2020, at Woodland Terrace Assisted Living, Coloma. Davidson Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, Coloma, 468-3181.

Betty J. Davis, 90, of Coloma died April 30, 2020, at Pine Ridge Nursing Home, Stevensville. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Gracie "Honey" Ferguson, 80, of Benton Harbor died April 20, 2020, at Hallmark Living, Benton Harbor. Robbins Brothers Funeral home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

William W. Hays Sr., 65, of Berrien Springs died April 27, 2020, at home. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Paul "Brad" Heppler, 68, of Galien died April 29, 2020, at The Timbers of Cass County, Dowagiac. Sommerfeld Chapel and Cremation Services, New Buffalo, 469-2233.

Maria R. Ripa, 103, of Chicago, formerly of St. Joseph died April 28, 2020, at Evanston Hospital. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Todd M. Smith, 20, of Benton Harbor died April 17, 2020, at Ascension Borgess Hospital, Kalamazoo, Mich. Filbrandt Family Funeral Home, South Haven, 637-0333.

William Wayne Hays Sr.

Aug. 30, 1954 – April 27, 2020

William Wayne Hays Sr., 65, of Berrien Springs passed away on Monday, April 27, 2020, at his home.

A gathering of family and friends will take place later this summer. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

William, known as Bill, was born Aug. 30, 1954, in Chattanooga, Tenn., the son of the late William R. and Wilma (Leavitt) Hays. Bill was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a talented welder and fabricator and recently retired from Pratt Industries, Niles. He had also worked at Michigan Die Casting.

Survivors include his son, William (Patricia) Hays Jr., and his mother, Dorothy Oliver; a stepdaughter, Sherry Camp; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brothers, Neil (Carolyn) Hays and Mike Hays; and sisters, Carol Riggs and Paula (Dan) Perry.

Bill was preceded in death by a son, Jeffery Alan Hays in 2012.

Arrangements are entrusted to Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Todd Michael Smith

July 27, 1999 – April 17, 2020

Todd Michael Smith, 20, of Benton Harbor passed away on Friday, April 17, 2020, at Ascension Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich.

He was born July 27, 1999, to David Lee and Rebecca Ann (Smith) Martin Sr. in St. Joseph. Todd worked in construction. He enjoyed playing cards, board games and video games. Todd also loved listening to all types of music.

He is preceded in death by his stepmother, Mary Martin.

Todd is survived by his parents, David Lee and Rebecca Ann Smith Sr.; brothers, David (Nancy Davis) Martin Jr. and Daniel J. Smith; nephews, David Lee Martin III and Jack Daniels Martin; and companion, Nicki May Bottoms – all of Benton Harbor.

Private family services will be held. Kindly share your thoughts and memories on the family's online guest book at www.FilbrandtFFH.com.

The family is being helped by the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven, 637-0333.

Maria Rita Ripa

Jan. 26, 1917 – April 28, 2020

Maria Rita Ripa, 103, of Chicago, formerly of St. Joseph passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at Evanston Hospital. Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel. A private Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date. Burial will take place in Resurrection Cemetery, St. Joseph. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Maria loved to travel. She would extensively visit Europe and South America, where she had many friends. It was during these trips where Maria became fluent in Italian and Spanish and her passion for Spanish music and dancing began.

Maria was the devoted daughter of the late Louise Ripa; beloved sister of the late Leonora Yolanda Ripa; and fond cousin of Rosemary Tirio, Carol (Michael) Lamplot, John (Patricia) Tirio and Mark (Patrice) Tirio. She is also survived by many second cousins, friends and colleagues at the Modern Language Department of the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she was employed for 42 years.

Gracie 'Honey' Ferguson

Aug. 8, 1939 – April 20, 2020

Gracie "Honey" Ferguson, 80, of Benton Harbor, formerly of Clarksdale, Miss., departed this life on April 20, 2020, at Hallmark Living Nursing Home in Benton Harbor. A memorial service celebrating her life will be held later in the summer so that all family and friends may attend.

Gracie was born on Aug. 8, 1939, in Drew, Miss., to Awster and Mellie Brady. She relocated to Benton Harbor in 2017 so that she was closer to family. Gracie was mostly quiet and listened to everything. She would talk to you if she knew you or if she was just ready to have a conversation about the good old days.

She leaves to cherish her memories, her brother, Al Brady; sister, Essie Mae Johnson; nieces, Pauline (Joe) Gordon, Alicia (Lanny) McCalvin and Diane Brady; nephew, Robert Lee Suggs; sister-in-law, Portia Jones; special friend, T. L. Jones; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Gracie was preceded in death by her brothers, Willie Lee Jones, Robert Lee Brady and Willie Lee Brady; and sister, Annette Brady.

See more obituaries on Page A6

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

Residents of Berrien Springs and the surrounding area covered the bluff, lined the approach to the bridge and waited in cars for a chance to be one of the first over the new structure. "The Bridge," as the Berrien Springs Village Council renamed it, opened at 5 p.m. yesterday, ending eight months of inconvenience and traffic problems. The opening came one month ahead of schedule.

35 years ago – 1985

Coloma artist Randall Higdon, who has received national recognition for his paintings this spring, will be featured in two one-man exhibitions – May 10 at the White Oak Gallery in Minneapolis and June 6 at Bergsma Gallery in Grand Rapids.

Higdon graduated from Kendall School of Design in Grand Rapids, worked as a commercial artist, and for the past seven years has concentrated on fine art painting in his studio at his Coloma home.

50 years ago – 1970

Twenty-three persons became U.S. citizens yesterday at Lakeshore High School in what's believed to be the first county naturalization held outside a courthouse. The new Americans are: Mrs. Inge Donet, Mr. and Mrs. Julio Caicedo, Mrs. Gladys Fernandez, Helio Zimmerman, Alfred Krueger, Mr. and Mrs. Jeno Bilicz, Mrs. Irene Menchinger, Mrs. I. Suk Olson, Mrs. Frances Marie Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. Hector Maquera, Mr. and Mrs. James Edwards, George Malek, Jaime Ramon Carbuccia, Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Timm, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Muller and Mr. and Mrs. Horst Waldmann.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, May 2, the 123rd day of 2020. There are 243 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On May 2, 1994, Nelson Mandela claimed victory in the wake of South Africa's first democratic elections; President F.W. de Klerk acknowledged defeat.

On this date:

In 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was accidentally wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, Virginia; he died eight days later.

In 1890, the Oklahoma Territory was organized.

In 1908, the original version of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," with music by Albert Von Tilzer and lyrics by Jack Norworth, was published by Von Tilzer's York Music Co.

In 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Buck v. Bell, upheld 8-1 a Virginia law allowing the forced sterilization of people to promote the "health of the patient and the welfare of society."

In 1968, "The Odd Couple," the movie version of the Neil Simon comedy starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, opened in New York.

In 1970, jockey Diane Crump became the first woman to ride in the Kentucky Derby; she finished in 15th place aboard Fathom. (The winning horse was Dust Commander.)

In 1972, longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover died in Washington at age 77.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Few Showers	Few Showers
71°	49°	57° / 46°	54° / 48°	53° / 44°	52° / 45°

Local Outlook

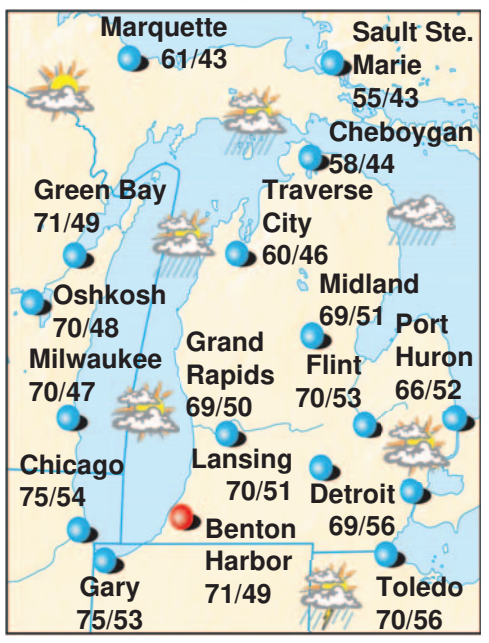
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 71°, humidity of 51%. South southwest wind 9 to 16 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 49°. West wind 5 to 9 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 6:39 a.m.
Sunset ..... 8:46 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 2:59 p.m.
Moonset ..... 4:19 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
5/7	5/14	5/22	5/29

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	64°
Low	38°
Normal High	66°
Normal Low	43°
Record High	87° in 2007
Record Low	31° in 2005

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal for month	0.14"
Year to date	12.24"
Normal Year to date	9.32"

Air Quality

Yesterday 39
Main Offender ..... Ozone

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

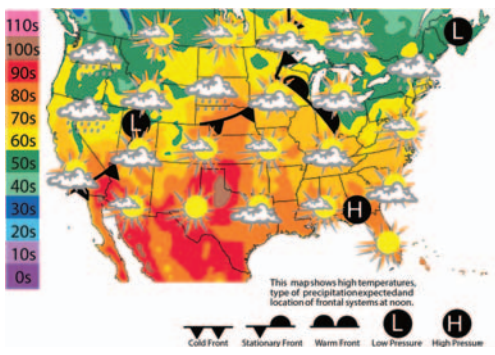
Weather Trivia

What is the center of a hurricane called?

Answer: The eye

National Weather Map

Forecast map for May 2, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, S wind 11 to 15 kt. A slight chance of showers. Waves 1 to 2 ft. Water temperature 43 degrees. Tonight, W wind 7 to 11 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves around 2 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy to cloudy with widespread showers, highs in the 50s and 60s. South wind 3 to 9 mph. Expect mostly sunny skies Sunday with highs in the 40s and 50s. West wind 8 to 17 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms, highs in the 60s and 70s. South southwest wind 9 to 16 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies Sunday with isolated showers, highs from the 50s to the 70s. West northwest wind 2 to 8 mph.

OBITUARIES (CONTINUED FROM A5)

Raymond Paul Janssen

June 10, 1923 – April 22, 2020

Raymond Paul Janssen, 96, of Dowagiac passed away Wednesday, April 22, 2020, from the COVID-19 virus infection at Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo. Two daughters also infected were able to be with him at his bedside.

Ray was born in DePere, Wis., on June 10, 1923, the son of Peter and Anna Janssen. He married Eleanor Drake on Nov. 23, 1946, in Dowagiac, and were happily married over 70 years before he lost the love of his life.

He is survived by five children: Thomas (Beth) Janssen of Marcellus, Teresa Hemenway of Dowagiac, Timothy (Judy) Janssen of Lawrence, Trudy (Dan) Coville of Portage and Tena (David) Warkentien of Decatur; 21 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. His special friend, Mary, brought a lot of joy and friendship to his life. Other survivors include, sisters-in-law, Shirley Janssen of Dowagiac, Eunice (Robert) Luke of Dowagiac and Estelle (Frank) Beach of Decatur. He also is survived by a very loyal and loving dog, Patton.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Eleanor; two children, Theodore and Tammy; two grandchildren, Harley Hemenway and Melissa Warkentien; his parents; eight brothers; and eight sisters. He was the last of his generation for his 60 nieces and nephews.

Due to the shutdown for the virus which ended his life, there can only be a private service with his children and their spouses. A Memorial Mass and a celebration of his life will be planned once it is safe for large gatherings. In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to the Holy Family Scholarship Fund or in his memory to Cass County COA (casscoa.org or 269-445-8110). Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at newellchapel.com.

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Whirlpool CEO foresees 'severe storm' in Q2

Pandemic has company projecting over $500M in net costs for 2020

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Whirlpool Corp. executives gave shareholders a sobering outlook Friday of what the company faces for the remainder of 2020.

During a conference call with shareholders, Whirlpool CEO and Chairman Marc Bitzer took questions and offered insight as to what the company is dealing with on a global scale regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have to get through the storm that will be severe in Q2," Bitzer said. "I still believe we are on the right track here. We've seen all the letters in the alphabet to describe a possible recovery, but I'm confident we can pick up where we got started in Q1."

The Benton Harbor appliance maker revealed its first-quarter net earnings Thursday to be $152 million, or $2.41 per share. Earnings were down compared to the $471 million, or $7.31 per share, recorded for the first quarter of 2019.

Analysts had expected the company to earn $2.62 per share.

Bitzer said they anticipate a "U-shaped" demand among consumer buying tendencies, as the second quarter of 2020 will see an even further drop in earnings from March.

However, he said there could be a slight recovery in the third and fourth quarters.

"It's highly uncertain we are able to provide a meaningful guidance for 2020," Bitzer said. "It took many difficult, but necessary actions to ensure we would be able to withstand the next crisis."

Among those actions was a requirement for Whirlpool's salaried employees in the U.S. to take two-week furloughs to soften the economic blow the company felt after one month of restrictions across the nation.

Bitzer said 95 percent of office work is being done from home.

Jim Peters, chief financial officer of Whirlpool, said a double-digit decline in revenue can be expected as consumers are putting off buying some appliances because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"As consumer behavior trends changed, we've seen an increase demand in microwaves, low-end refrigerators and freezers," Peters said. "We expect these changes to be a headwind during the crisis."

Bitzer said company officials anticipate a 10- to 15-percent decline in net sales for the second quarter.

Whirlpool is now projecting more than $500 million in net cost, a significant increase from the $300 million listed in the company's previous guidance.

"We are well-positioned to capture pent up demand upon the return to normalcy," Bitzer said. "We are uniquely structured to take advantage of post-crisis living. There is a positive catalyst for our industry and cleaning appliances."

From the U.S. and beyond

Whirlpool sales saw staggering effects as COVID-19 began to make its way to the western portion of the world.

North American sales, particularly in the U.S., were not affected as soon as other regions because it was in an early stage of battling COVID-19 when the first quarter ended. Bitzer said demand was not as pronounced as it was in China and Italy.

"The U.S. has a significant level of replacement sales," Bitzer said. "The home improvement (retailers) that remained open allowed con-

See **WHIRLPOOL**, page B2

BERRIEN COUNTY

Board OKs Union Pier contract in split vote

Commissioners vote 7-5 for higher bid

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County commissioners narrowly approved by a 7-5 vote Thursday the hiring of Wightman to provide construction services for the the Red Arrow Highway Union Pier Corridor Improvements Project in Chikaming Township.

Wightman's bid of $421,300 was $80,000 higher than Abonmarche's bid of $341,000. Jason Latham, managing director of the county's road department, said Wightman, an engineering firm in Benton Township, was chosen because the company's team that will work on the project has more experience than the team put together by Abonmarche, an engineering firm in Benton Harbor.

The item was taken off the April 23 requisition report so commissioners could get more information.

Latham said that his office uses the qualifications-based selection process, used statewide, when seeking design services from engineers, architects and surveyors.

He said the American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan endorses using the QBS selection process versus hiring the lowest bidder, to receive the best value and to protect the health and safety of the public. He said the Michigan Department of Transportation also uses the QBS process.

But Commissioner Bill Chickering wasn't satisfied. He said the three firms that submitted bids were all within a few points of each other.

"Are we to tell our taxpayers that one or two points out of 100 is worth $80,000?" he said.

Latham said yes.

"It's qualification based," he said. "... Are you willing to let a firm that has had no experience whatsoever on streetscapes be responsible for $4 million, where they make a mistake and now we're in the hole for $1 million or $2 million or $1.5 million? It's that simple."

He said the scoring is done not based on the company, but based on the team of people the company says will be doing the work.

Commissioner Ezra Scott, who sits on the county finance committee, said he had a problem with the process.

See **VOTE**, page B3

SOUTH HAVEN

Becky Kark / For The Herdald-Palladium

Patty Meyer points to the deepest section of Dunkley Avenue, where flood waters rose to 15 inches by noon on Thursday. Her husband, Fred, is standing next to her. The couple lives in an condominium at South Haven Marina Townhomes on Dunkley Avenue, where they've dealt with flooding issues on their street for the past year.

Dunkley Avenue dunked again as South Haven Harbor floods

Residents of chronically flooded street tired of the mess

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — People will get used to seeing the Dyckman Avenue bridge being raised this summer, not only for sailboats but also for motor boats.

Wednesday's rainfall and high winds, coupled with Lake Michigan record-high water level, caused waves to surge into the city's harbor during the evening and Thursday, causing extensive flooding along the lakeshore and Black River.

The water level underneath the bridge was so high that the "danger" sign near the bridge's electrical hydraulic system was completely covered. The incident came on the heels of the city investing $19,380 two weeks ago to raise two metal cabinets that house motors that operate the bridge's hydraulic system. The project was finished just in the nick of time.

Nearby, however, residents who live along Dunkley Avenue weren't faring quite so well on Thursday.

Flood water from the Black River once again turned the street into a pond, forcing city officials to close it.

"It's about 15 inches high," said Fred Meyer, who was getting around in wading boots in the wake of the deluge. "It was a little higher the day before Thanksgiving (in November 2019, when South Haven experienced a similar flooding situation)."

Meyer and his wife, Patty, have lived in the South Haven Marina Townhomes on Dunkley Avenue since 1999.

For the past year their street has repeatedly flooded due to high water levels on Lake Michigan and the Black River. When the flood waters are high, condo owners on Dunkley who own SUVs and pickup trucks are the only ones who can get from their homes to go shopping or elsewhere.

"It (flood waters) hasn't gotten into our condo but it has in our garage and our storage garage across the street where is has caused some damage," Fred Meyer said.

Alan Silverman also lives in the South Haven Marina Townhomes.

"Flooding of Dunkley in front of our condos has been sporadic over the past month," he said. "Beginning late yesterday (Wednesday) and continuing today (Thursday) the river is higher than is has been for a while. ... Dunkley has now risen enough to flood the commercial building across from our units as well as our garage building diagonally across from our units. Fortunately, our condo units are two steps up from the garage floor and we have not seen water beyond the garage."

Becky Kark / For The Herald-Palladium

The South Haven bascule bridge had to be lifted Thursday for this yacht to proceed to the city's harbor. Lifting the bridge for boats that don't have masts, like sailboats, will most likely be a common sight this year due to the record high water levels along the lakeshore and Black River.

A year ago city officials tried to address the flooding issue on Dunkley by spending $20,000 for sand bags and a pumping system, as a temporary measure to control the flooding. Neighbors, however, aren't real impressed with it.

"The temporary pump system placed by the city in the fall does nothing to remove that water as long as the river is high," Silverman said. "However, once the river declines, the pumps usually remove the standing water. ... The city must take action to correct this problem permanently."

City officials are examining what options can be taken to control the flooding. Those options will be more expensive, however, said Department of Public Works Director Bill Hunter in a previous interview.

Estimates compiled earlier this year by Edgewater Resources of St. Joseph indicate it could cost anywhere from $700,000 to $1 million to address the flooding issues along Dunkley Avenue, and at Ellen Avery Park on North Shore Drive, which is experiencing similar flooding problems. The city also is looking at shelling out $1 million this year to prevent flooding that threatens the wastewater treatment plant.

On the web

Read this story online to see videos of the flooding.

Ask a Cop

LT. JULIE FLICK
Berrien County Sheriff's Department

Most local parks remain open, with restrictions

I have seen several people out at our local schools on the track, on the tennis courts, on the football field, etc. I thought all school campuses and facilities including fields were closed to the public and students. Why is it OK for them to be using these facilities?

I have also seen people at our local little league fields practicing baseball/softball. I thought all parks and outdoor/indoor athletic facilities were also closed?

Just Curious,
Christine, St. Joseph

Hi Christine, thank you for seeking clarification on the use of school facilities and outdoor parks. I contacted several schools throughout Berrien County and received a few different answers. Some are closed and nobody is allowed on the property at this time. There are a few that are allowing the public to use a track or field to exercise as long as they are using good social distancing.

I am aware of one local school that had a group of kids playing soccer that were not from the same house. We had to tell them to stop playing. But for the most part when I pass by our schools I only see a few people walking and they are doing a great job of keeping at least 6 feet apart. If you are passing a certain school and see that the public is not using good social distancing I would suggest that you contact the school or your local police department to help with the issue. You can also contact your local school district to see what policies they have. Most are easily accessible by going to that district's website and sending them an email.

As far as baseball and softball, I would suggest the same approach. Many youth organizations have cancelled for the season and a few are waiting to see if a delayed start is possible. There should be no organized teams practicing right now, but you may find some parents and children working on skills at the ballparks. I have found that most municipal parks are open to walking and exercising, however they have roped or taped off the playground equipment or anything that you would have to touch. This includes the bathrooms and drinking fountains being closed.

We need to use good social distancing to keep our parks open. Many people live on busy streets and need to drive to another area for a safe place to exercise. If we aren't able to use good safety practices our cities and towns will have to shut the parks down. Make sure to bring your own drinking water and hand sanitizer when you go. Getting out and exercising is good for us mentally and physically right now!

Send in your questions about the law; get an answer from those who enforce it. Email your question to AskACop@TheHP.com and it may be featured in an article.

BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT

St. Joseph

Drunken driving

John L. Dunn, 57, of Washington Avenue, Stevensville, 1 year in jail, credit for 110 days served, $3,338 in fines and costs, 210 days on SCRAM tether, 400 hours community service and 4 years probation for operating while intoxicated, third offense, Jan. 2 in Benton Township.

Odis R. Jones, 61, of Whittaker Street, New Buffalo, 1 year in jail, credit for 49 days served, and $198 in costs for operating a boat while intoxicated March 3 in New Buffalo.

Frank A. Clay, 48, of North Watervliet Road, Watervliet, 23 months to 5 years in prison and $1,298 in fines and costs for operating while intoxicated, third offense, March 12 in Watervliet Township.

Tampering with tether

Kaleb C. Reid, 33, of Zilke Street, Niles, 13 months to 2 years in prison for tampering with an electronic device, a jail tether, July 29, 2019, in Benton Harbor.

Edward Jerron-Alexander Christian, 38, of McAlister Street, Benton Harbor, $198 in costs for tampering with an electronic device, a jail tether, April 1, 2018, in Benton Harbor.

Drugs

Kenyata Emanuel-Kunte Powell, 41, of Colfax Avenue, Benton Harbor, 200 days in jail, credit for 200 days served, forfeiture of two pistols and driver's license suspended for one year for maintaining a drug house Oct. 8, 2019, in Benton Harbor.

Niles

Drugs

Labrand J. Holt-Spencer, 39, of South Bend, Ind., 14 months to 10 years in prison, credit for 55 days served, and $258 in costs for possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, Feb. 26 in Niles Township.

Justin Schram, 41, of Cass Street, Niles, 96 days in jail, credit for 96 days served, $658 in fines and costs, 90 days on tether and 2 years probation for delivery/manufacture of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, Oct. 10, 2019, in Niles.

Weapons

Jamonte D. Joiner, 27, of James Street, Niles, 55 days in jail, credit for 55 days served, $658 in fines and costs and forfeiture of a firearm for attempted carrying a concealed weapon, a pistol, Dec. 25, 2016, in Niles.

Contempt of Court

Caleb W. Alkire, 19, of Woods Edge Drive, Niles, 60 days in jail, credit for 3 days served, for contempt of court, a bond violation, Dec. 5, 2019, in Niles.

IN BRIEF

Cook Unit 2 removed from service for small leak

BRIDGMAN — Cook Nuclear Plant's Unit 2 was taken offline Friday morning after officials said a "small leak" was discovered on a pipe feeding one of the unit's pressurizer spray valves.

The shutdown happened just before 11 a.m., according to a news release.

Unit 2 will remain offline until the leak repair has been safely and successfully completed. A return to service date was not provided for competitive reasons, according to the release.

Unit 1 remains at 100 percent power.

WHIRLPOOL

From page B1

sumers to keep purchasing products. Europe was impacted earlier and the depths of the demand drop was more severe."

Fixed-cost discipline allowed the company to enter the crisis in a position of strength, Bitzer said.

"As our teams monitored the spread of COVID-19 from Asia to Europe to the U.S., we addressed a reduction in unpaid leave and furloughs," he said. "We put rigorous guidelines in place to manage our expenses going forward. We've maintained our focus on capital management."

Peters said demand in China declined sharply at the start of the outbreak, as well as in India following the country's shutdown. However, Peters said consumers are slowly returning to the market in China.

In addition to releasing disappointing figures – which reflect the start of the pandemic – the company's revenue for the quarter fell 9 percent, to $4.33 billion, from $4.76 billion last year.

Whirlpool declared a quarterly dividend of $1.20 per share on April 21, unchanged from the prior quarter, which translated to a 4.9 percent dividend yield.

"We have a strong liquidity position, declared our quarterly dividend and are focused on returning value to shareholders," Peters said. "We remain focused on our long-term commitment."

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

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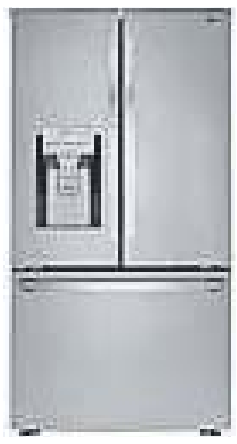

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VOTE

From page B1

He said that when finance committee members approved hiring Wightman, they didn't know that Wightman wasn't the low bidder. And he said this isn't the first time that they were given a bid to approve without knowing that it wasn't the lowest bidder.

"We have to follow a process. When you are going to take a higher bidder rather than the lowest bid, you're supposed to come back to finance and let us know why," he said.

Latham said he usually does, although maybe he missed one.

Commissioner Teri Freehling said she agrees with Scott.

"It sounds like there might be a misstep happening here with regards to getting information back to the committee from those departments," she said. "... It is our due diligence as a board to make sure that the integrity of this board and the decisions that we make for public trust is on the up-and-up. We have to follow the process."

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough, chairwoman of the finance committee, said committee members assume that they are approving the lowest bidder unless they are told otherwise. She said she didn't know that Wightman wasn't the lowest bidder until she started getting phone calls a couple of weekends ago.

She said Wightman received the contract for the design work on the project last year even though its bid was $41,000 higher than Abonmarche's bid. When added to the $80,000, she said Wightman is being paid $121,000 more than the county would have paid if Abonmarche had been hired.

"There is a problem here and $121,000, to me, cannot be ignored," she said.

Administrator Bill Wolf said the county has been operating under the current rules for two years and this is the first time he's heard objections to it.

Voting to award the project to Wightman were Bob Harrison, Chairman Mac Elliott and Commissioners Dave Vollrath, Michael Majerek, Chris Heugel, Jon Hinkelman and Jim Curran.

Voting against awarding the project were Commissioners Freehling, Yarbrough, Scott, Chickering and Don Meeks.

Administrator search

Near the end of the meeting, Hinkelman asked Elliott about how the search for a new administrator is going, since Wolf's last day is June 12.

Elliott said he would call him about it.

When contacted by The Herald-Palladium after the meeting, Elliott said a review committee of five commissioners is going through the 15 applications and hopes to have them whittled down to one or two by the commission's next meeting, on May 14. They are uncertain if that meeting will be held via Zoom or in person.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order allowing government bodies to meet virtually expires May 12.

Elliott said many of the applicants have jobs and don't want their current employers to know they are looking for a different job unless they are one of the finalists.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

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hp OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Photo provided / William Myrkle

Ospreys are in nest atop a pole at the football field at Bangor High School.

Photo provided / Brad Anderson

A male ruby-throated hummingbird is seen April 23 in Bridgman.

Photo provided / David Ferris

A LeConte's sparrow is seen April 23 at Warren Dunes State Park.

Osprey continues its comeback in region

Jonathan Wuepper
Southwest Michigan Wildlife

The osprey, once on the Endangered Species List, has been making a comeback in Southwest Michigan in recent decades.

A new nest was discovered last week, when William and Greg Myrkle found a pair atop a light pole at Bangor High School.

Ospreys typically lay three eggs, and when the young hatch by early June, will be fed nearly six founds of fish daily. The Bangor ospreys likely catch fish in the nearby Black River.

One of the most welcomed sights in spring is the return of the ruby-throated hummingbird. A male of the species was photographed April 23 in Bridgman by Brad Anderson.

While the ruby-throated hummingbirds are first reported in mid-April in Southwest Michigan, they don't become common until the first few days of May.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is well distributed throughout Michigan, and utilizes a variety of habitats, but is found most frequently among forested areas adjacent to water.

The female ruby-throated hummingbird builds a small nest out of moss and lichens, weaved together with spiders' silk. Old nests are often revisited each year and refurbished.

David Ferris of Buchanan made a nice find on April 23 with the discovery of a LeConte's sparrow at Warren Dunes State Park.

The LeConte's sparrow migrates through Southwest Michigan every year but is not often seen, nor photographed as it is quite secretive, spending its time in thick vegetation such as cattail marshes, tallgrass prairie and old fields.

LeConte's sparrows nest among wet prairies and marsh edges in the central prairie provinces of Canada, east and south through northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and scattered locations in the Upper Peninsula.

I would like to thank readers for your submissions. During April and May, I receive far more photos and reports than I am able use in this column, but I do look at each one.

Jonathan Wuepper is an area naturalist. Report your sightings to him at wuepperj@gmail.com.

Is there a big bass quota?

Dave Mull

Art Huey is one of the nicest guys you'll ever meet and a pretty good bass fisherman, even though he still uses push-button Zebco reels, which most bass anglers stop using around age 9.

He's also a kayak-fishing buddy and friend. I think hell be OK if I jab him a little about his gear.

As I write this Thursday morning, I'm obsessed with beating him and, to add a little gunfighter flavor, I must do it before sundown.

That's when the submissions end for the fledgeling Michigan Big Bass League's first virtual kayak bracket tournament. And to beat Art, I must catch a bass that's at least 18.5 inches long.

So I'm planning to take my kayak out this afternoon into rain, 40-degree temperatures and 45-mph winds.

Altogether, 64 kayak anglers paid $50 apiece to get in this bracket contest, largely modeled after the Marsh Madness college basketball tournament. Basically, we have a week to catch a bigger bass than one particular person.

Then, winners move to the next round and have another week to beat their next opponent until a championship round decides the winner. There are East, West, North and South divisions, with eight anglers in each. Most of my fishing friends, including Art, are with me in the South.

We're allowed to fish any lake in Michigan. As with most kayak tournaments, we take a picture of our fish on an approved measuring device and submit it to tourneyx.com, a website that keeps track of who caught what.

When you catch and submit a bigger bass, the website automatically posts it and drops your previous catch.

We can see what our opponent has caught as soon as he submits it. I didn't have to check the site because Art caught his 18.25-incher right in front of me on Swan Lake the first day of the contest.

Photo provided / Dave Mull

Dave Mull shows a 20-inch largemouth he's afraid he might have caught too soon.

The drawings for the first-round brackets happened a week ago Thursday live on Facebook so we knew right away who we had to beat in the first round. The contest started the next day, Friday.

Art and I both work part-time for Matt Elliott at his Mainstream Tackle & Outdoors in Galesburg. Since the store was closed, the three of us got together at Swan Lake by Allegan that first day.

To make a long story short, we all caught several bass. I thought I was doing great with a 16.5-incher, but then Art caught his 18.25-incher (with a Senko cast on his push-button reel). Matt whipped us both with a 20.5-inch largemouth he caught on a Jack Hammer Chatterbait.

We both owed Matt $5, and Art was now beating me.

This tournament is one I wish I could have spent more time doing as the first prize is a new Midwest Watercraft pedal-powered kayak worth $1,400.

It's a slick little boat and I'd love to add it to my fleet, but I'll probably sell it to my tackle shop at wholesale because I'm feeling the effects of this economic downturn. In other words, I'm pretty broke.

And here's what worries me about the last bit of time I have to spend on the water: I might have already used up my quota of big bass for the season. I had a remarkable couple of trips the last week of March, catching three bass better than 20 inches and one 18.5-inch fish.

I am positive I've never caught three 20-inch largemouth in the same season, let alone the same week. I have gone years between catching 20-inch fish.

The law of averages dictates that my next 20-incher is due in about 11 years. Of course, all I need is one longer than 18.25.

I guess I better stop thinking about it and just go fishing.

Writer Dave Mull shows a 20-inch largemouth he's afraid he might have caught too soon.

Outdoors columnist Dave Mull lives in Paw Paw. Write to him at dave.sportfish.mull@gmail.com.

DNR sets opening dates for camping

By THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has updated expected opening dates and available amenities at many of its public outdoor recreation sites and facilities.

Most state parks and recreation areas and state-managed trails and boating access sites remain open to provide local opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, but social distancing is key. Federal and state health officials consistently have said that keeping at least 6 feet away from those outside your household is vital to containing the coronavirus spread.

Proposed facility reopening dates are based on the updated stay-at-home executive order that ends May 15 and are staggered to allow for proper preparation.

Details on closures and changes in services, as well as frequently asked questions, are available on the DNR's COVID-19 response webpage at www.Michigan.gov/DNR.

To prepare state-managed parks, trails and boating facilities, many important tasks must be completed once nonessential work is permitted.

The department anticipates staff can start work May 15 once the stay-at-home order is lifted; prep work is expected to take roughly five weeks.

Camping, overnight lodging and shelters set to open June 22

Camping and overnight lodging reservations for dates between May 15 and June 21 have been canceled, but the following reimbursement options are available:

Request to change reservation dates to later in the season (pending availability within the reservation booking window) and earn a free night for that time period. No reservation fees or cancellation/modification fees will be charged.

Reservation holders who want this option must contact the call center at 800-447-2757 by May 15 at 8 p.m.

State forest campgrounds and DNR-operated harbors set to open June 10

The DNR will extend closures in state forest campgrounds and DNR-operated harbors through at least June 9, allowing for additional time to prepare for public reopening.

Reservations for dates between May 15 and June 9 will automatically be canceled after May 15 for a full refund to the original payment method, unless a customer calls the call center at 800-447-2757 by May 15 at 8 p.m. to request a reservation be changed to a later date as outlined above (including one free night).

Berrien County Veterans Services
701 Main Street • St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-7111 Ext. 8224
www.berriencounty.org/veterans

When it comes to Veterans Benefits, many veterans and dependents don't know what they don't know. Nationwide, less than 10% of those eligible apply. Let us help to educate and navigate you thru the maze of what is available from discharge to death. Here are some of the many benefits:

★ Disability Compensation benefits for prior conditions, diseases or injuries that occurred in service or many years later as a result of service (e.g. Agent Orange Exposure, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – combat or personal trauma) to name a few.

★ PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center that comes to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.

★ Please read our weekly "The Veterans Voice" article in MailMax Newspaper to learn more about additional benefits for veterans and dependents. Let us be of service to you for your service.

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MICHIGAN WORKS! Berrien • Cass • Van Buren

Dozens of police and emergency vehicles join a funeral procession along M-63 in St. Joseph for retired St. Joseph Township Police Officer Bobby Simmons on April 22. Simmons, who spent 35 years in law enforcement, died following a battle with cancer.

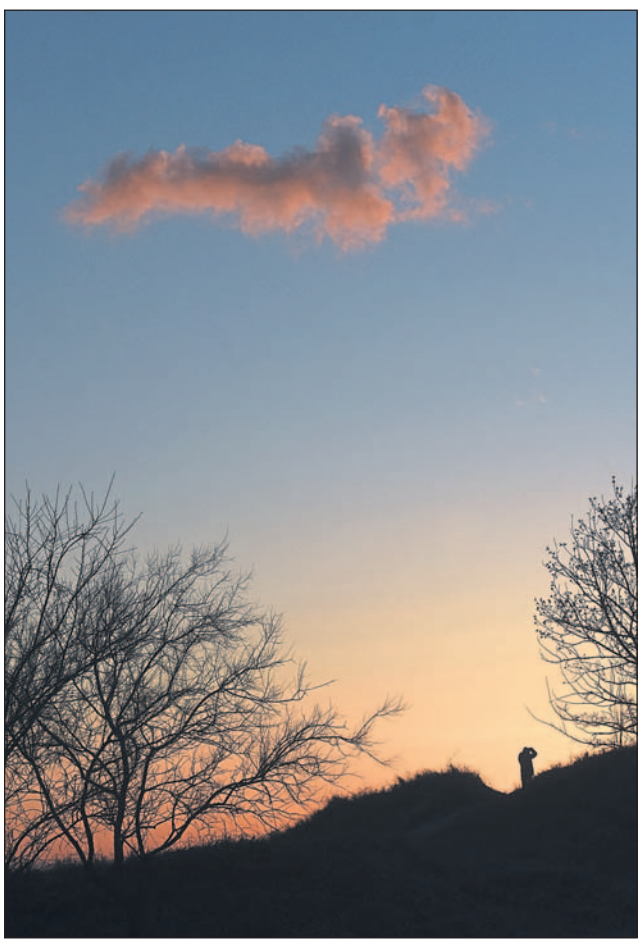
A spring snowstorm coats a hyacinth at Bear Park in St. Joseph on April 15.

Spectrum Health Lakeland staff watch as dozens of area police and fire vehicles make a stop at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph on April 23 as a tribute to health care workers.

March and April: A Second Look

Photos from the files of Herald-Palladium Photographer Don Campbell

A heavy fog moves in over North Lake Park in Stevensville on April 8.



ABOVE: A man photographs the sun setting from the dunes at Tiscornia Park in St. Joseph on April 13.

AT RIGHT: A family takes advantage of warm weather as they scramble up the dunes at Warren Dunes State Park in Bridgman on April 7.

Find more photos online by following The Herald-Palladium on Instagram @HeraldPalladium.

Chalk drawings encouraging residents to stay home and stay safe are pictured in a St. Joseph Township driveway last week as a stay at home order remains in effect in Michigan due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A student wears a shirt featuring dozens of team buttons on March 6 during the FIRST in Michigan District Robotics Competition at St. Joseph High School. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) teams created, programmed and marketed robots to make their way through a variety of obstacles on an enclosed course.

A maestro's memorable moments

Departing SMSO director Robin Fountain reflects on his career

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — When Robin Fountain looks back on his time with the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, he can come up with many memorable moments.

"It's hard to pick one," he said during a recent phone interview. "There were so many moments that brought me great joy."

Fountain is stepping down as the orchestra's music director this spring after 14 seasons at the helm. Now in his early 60s, he wants to make his life a little more manageable.

One memory he will look back on fondly, he said, is the partnership with the Southwest Michigan Symphony Chorus.

"It was created in a new model as a singers collective," Fountain said. "Why that was so important to me was because there was a tremendous growth in that ensemble. Toward the end, we were performing Beethoven's Ninth, and other significant pieces."

He said that growth seen in the chorus also took place in the orchestra.

"The orchestra now sounds fantastic," Fountain said. "We happen to be blessed geographically with this location that is in the golden triangle of freelance musicians from Ann Arbor, Chicago and South Bend. There's a huge pool, and so now when we hold auditions, the quality is just stellar."

Fountain said the annual performance in which the adult orchestra played with the youth orchestra was sometimes eye opening.

"I tip my hat to Burke Lokey for being such an able collaborator," he said. "One could see the effect had on the youth that participated and the audience watching."

Creating the Music Makers program in 2013 was dear to Fountain's heart. The program gives children in Benton Harbor the opportunity to learn all about different musical instruments, as well as play them in an ensemble.

Photo provided / José Francisco Salgado
Robin Fountain is stepping down as director of the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra after 14 seasons.

"It was a really important new venture for us. I think we did a lot of good in that in the larger social sense," he said.

Fountain remembered a visually beautiful summer concert, "The Secret Garden," that included a big effort to decorate the stage in live flowers.

"The sheer effort, the generosity of the people who gave the flowers and the vision – it was overwhelming," he said.

He said one of the other collaborating projects he enjoyed working on was the summer performances with The Ghost-Light Theatre.

"The shows we were able to do on the beach were clearly a highlight," Fountain said.

In 2009, SMSO partnered with Twin City Players to put on "Ragtime: The Musical."

"It involved finding a cast and a whole lot of people who never collaborated on anything before," Fountain said.

But, he said that experience makes him think about a quote from French artist Philippe Petit, who tightrope walked between the Twin Towers.

"It goes something along the lines of, 'You can judge the achievement by the degree of risk involved in doing it,'" Fountain said. "If you use that as a template for what you did, 'Ragtime' stands out for me. It moved me to tears at the time from what happened on the stage there."

He noted another moving moment with the Benton Harbor High School drum line, which was set to perform a concerto with the orchestra.

"The basketball team had great success and made it to the state final," Fountain said. "The final was on the night of our dress rehearsal. The kids wanted to do our performance, so they missed the opportunity to play at the state final to come play with us, and they ended up giving a tremendous performance."

Another moment of coming together was when the orchestra was set to play "Brahms Requiem," and the first two rehearsals were canceled because of a snowstorm.

"We were only left with two rehearsals, which put tremendous strain on everyone," Fountain said. "Both the orchestra and the chorus came through so wonderfully. Sometimes when you're facing adversity, there's a certain level of concentration that comes in."

Fountain's final concert, which was set for last week, was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It was extremely painful," he said, "but I have to bear in mind that this kind of adversity is a first-world problem. When I compare my own situation with so many others, I am so fortunate."

He's been passing the time teaching virtual classes at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, where he has been a faculty member since 1994, and a professor of conducting since 2003.

"I will miss all my friends in the orchestra, and all my friends on the board, my hosts, and so many people up there that help with everything there is in a season," he said. "I have an undying gratitude to SMSO and the community for giving me some wonderful memories."

Possible replacements

SMSO announced earlier this year that Fountain's replacement has been narrowed to four finalists: Matthew Aubin, Grant Harville, Timothy Verville and Rachel Waddell.

Each of the finalists will conduct a concert during the 2020-21 season, then audience and orchestra members will be given the opportunity to provide feedback through surveys for each conductor.

For more information, including bios for each candidate, visit www.smso.org.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

PEOPLE OF THE GUIDE

Photo provided
Grand Rapids-based singer Dale Wicks has spent the last decade playing venues of all sizes across West Michigan.

From the office to the stage

Dale Wicks making a name for himself in Southwest Michigan

Editor's Note: "People of The Guide" is an occasional series where we catch up with musicians who appear often in our Entertainment calendar.

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

Getting laid off can be crippling to your career, but it also can put you on the path to newfound success.

"I was working in an office job at one point and playing a few solo gigs here and there," Dale Wicks said. "I was going to get laid off, and I decided in that meeting that I'm not going to do that. I'm going to play more shows and see what I could do as a full-time musician."

Wicks, a Grand Rapids-based singer-songwriter, now has spent the last 10 years playing gigs all around West Michigan.

thehp.com
Read this story online to listen to songs from Wicks' new album, "Backwords."

He was going to have a CD release show recently for his new album, "Backwords," but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented it. So, last month, he released the album online for free on Bandcamp.

See **WICKS**, page C3

Hats Off to the Graduates!

We want to celebrate the 2020 Senior Class and honor them in a big way!
Upload a photo of your graduating Senior to our Salute to Seniors photo gallery with an announcement or your well wishes!
We are so proud of our area graduates and we want to celebrate you!

You can upload photos and browse our gallery starting May 4 through June 12.

Go to www.thehp.com and click the Salute to Seniors link.
Upload your photo and well wishes!

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Lake Shore Media Group
The Herald-Palladium
The News-Dispatch
Grand Haven Tribune
South Haven Tribune
La Porte Herald-Argus
Harbor Country News
Rochester Sentinel
The Elkhart Truth

Matching Ad Grant Program
We are deeply committed to the community

The Paxton Media Group has established a $250,000 fund to help local business get back to full strength by subsidizing their marketing through matching grants. Area businesses can now apply for a grant to help them recover from the effects of the coronavirus crisis.

How Will It Work for My Business?

The fund is open to all locally owned and operated businesses impacted by the coronavirus, whether or not they are current advertisers. Grant money can be used for local print newspaper and special product advertising between April 22 and June 30, 2020. Grants are available for a minimum of $200 and a maximum of $5,000 of matching funds each month. Eg: spend $200 in advertising, we match with a grant of $200 additional advertising dollars to equal $400.

How Do I Apply?

To apply for a dollar-for-dollar matching advertising grant, applications must be submitted at TheHP.com. Click on the "Site Forms" link at the bottom of the home page, then click on the "Advertising Match Program" link. Or enter this url into your web browser: bit.ly/2wZek6q

The Herald-Palladium will respond within 48 hours.

The Herald-Palladium · Grand Haven Tribune · The News-Dispatch · South Haven Tribune · Herald-Argus · Harbor Country News · The Rochester Sentinel · The Elkhart Truth

PET OF THE WEEK

Whiskey is a 2-year-old who came to Animal Aid with a wound on his neck that required surgery, but he has healed well. He loves to cuddle, give hugs and would fit into nearly any home. He is good with kids, dogs and other cats. He is current on his vaccines, and is neutered. For more information, or to adopt him, call Becky at 926-4279.

VOLUNTEERS

Face masks for frontline workers

In partnership with the Emergency Operations Center, United Way of Southwest Michigan is collecting homemade face masks to distribute to frontline workers and volunteers at area agencies and organizations.

Agencies such as homeless shelters, Meals on Wheels, and many others are still working with their clients every day. They need masks to help protect their staffs, volunteers and clients.

To find donation locations and times, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

United Way of Southwest Michigan

The Herald-Palladium, in conjunction with the United Way of Southwest Michigan, publishes volunteer opportunities every Saturday.

To view all current listings, please visit United Way of Southwest Michigan's volunteer page at **uwsm.org/volunteer.**

Help ease worry

Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan is working with area seniors to fill many needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meals on Wheels is seeking donation of hygiene items that can be included in deliveries to seniors. Those items include full-size shampoo, full-size toothpaste, toothbrush, and notes of encouragement and cheer.

For more information, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Senior center needs helping hands

The Greater Niles Senior Center is seeking volunteers to help beautify the senior center and to install a Plexiglas barrier.

The senior center provides services and activities for independent seniors, and needs help so it can be focused on helping seniors.

For more information, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

COVID-19 standby volunteers needed

United Way of Southwest Michigan is looking for volunteers who are willing and able to help in a variety of ways during the COVID-19 crisis. Volunteers may be needed to help with tasks such as food distribution, cleaning and laundry.

At this time, this opportunity is an "on-call" opportunity, meaning volunteers will only be contacted if a specific need arises.

If you are willing and able to volunteer for tasks such as these, sign up volunteer.uwsm.org.

Turn compassion into action

American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan is looking for volunteers for several opportunities, such as a Disaster Action Team members, who provide 24-hour emergency response to local disasters, ensuring that those affected have access to resources for basic necessities such as food, shelter and clothing.

The American Red Cross also is looking for blood drive volunteers in Berrien and Cass counties.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Resiliency in the face of a pandemic

Lynn Kellogg
Generations

Does your day-to-day experience ever result in several disjointed things striking you with a common cord?

I was grateful that a now nearly 80-year-old friend still runs a weekly music radio show. In partnership with his daughter, he brings my husband and me joy. In addition to music, hearing the voice of a dear friend helps our sense of connectivity while isolated.

A recent article by SCORE, the local chapter of the nation's largest network of volunteer expert business mentors, primarily retirees, highlighted the advantage of hiring a multi-generational workforce. They brought to light how the combined characteristics of different generations create a powerful set of talents for any employer.

I sat through a test run for my Rotary Club's first virtual meeting. With quite a few members of advanced years and many unfamiliar with the technology, they weren't shy in asking questions on how to find mute and video buttons, volume control, and so on.

So what's the common cord?

After weeks of appropriate focus on the isolation needed to combat COVID-19, and the increased vulnerability and danger to older people, these are all great examples of the flip side of being older, resiliency.

There is much written about the effect of trauma on children, particularly in the formative years. There's less but increasing research on the effect of trauma and change, experienced throughout life, on the older crowd.

By living to advanced years, most people have lived through multiple adversities.

Dr. Carol Hoare, a professor of human development at George Washington University, points out that studies comparing young adults (those younger 26) with older adults (those older than 64) found that older adults were more resilient than young adults, particularly in the areas of problem solving and ability to regulate emotions.

It's not surprising. They've had more experience.

Dr. Morton Shaevitz, an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California, describes the natural process of aging as a time of continual change and loss in what he calls "The New Normal" for those older than 65.

The New Normal underscores the likelihood of having to cope with one or more chronic conditions, such as diabetes, arthritis or orthopedic conditions, which translates to taking more medications to manage health.

Shaevitz recognizes common quirks – like losing one's glasses, keys or phone – may reflect short-term memory loss, also part of The New Normal. Such changes should be not seen as dementia, which affects a relatively small minority.

He reminds us that with the inevitability of age comes the fact that those we depend on and love are aging, too. Friends, spouses, physicians get ill and pass on.

Not to be dismayed, one of the most successful approaches to adverse change is to respond with definitive action. Research shows that people seen as resilient tend to approach change in an action-oriented way.

Examples might include continuing a beloved hobby like running a radio program; finding purpose in helping someone start a business by being a mentor; or taking the plunge to learn a new technology as means to stay connected. Balancing vulnerability alongside strength – impressive.

That's not to say we can all be equally resilient, concluding that if some people can cope with change and difficulty, everyone should be able to. Not so.

It's important to recognize that our personal circumstances, our social, financial and physical environments and opportunities, either add or subtract from our personal resilience. Ability to achieve resilience can be measured on the individual, community or national level.

Janine Wiles, an associate professor in population health at the University of Auckland points out, "We need to attend to ways that public services, public and built spaces, relevant legislation, good income support and taxation systems, housing polices and other supports, and thoughtful social values and attitudes can enhance the resilience of individual, families and communities."

Amen.

Lynn Kellogg is CEO of Region IV Area Agency on Aging in Southwest Michigan. Questions on age or independence services? Call the Info-Line for Aging & Disability at 800-654-2810 or visit www.areaagencyonaging.org. The Generations column appears each Saturday in The Herald-Palladium.

COVID-19 brings awareness of interdependency

Kunga Nyima
Insights

Like most people all over the world I have been working from home for about a month now. My home office is in a bedroom with windows overlooking the unusually quiet street in front of our house.

In normal circumstances this street is a busy thoroughfare with a constant buzz of cars taking students to high school, participants to PACE, and shoppers to Martin's Super Markets. Even the sidewalks are usually busy with employees from LECO getting their steps in during breaks and lunch.

Looking out at all that tranquility, it's jarring to remember that we are living through a global disaster. The COVID-19 pandemic is so difficult to comprehend because it doesn't resemble anything we've seen before.

Our more recent national disasters – the fires in California, the flooding of New Orleans, the tropical storms in Florida – all created widespread destruction that was easy to cover on TV.

In contrast, with COVID-19, all we have are scenes of empty city streets, vacant highways, and people standing six feet apart wearing surgical masks. These images highlight how difficult it is to document the current threat, which is only alluded to by the lack of people or the unusual sight of people wearing personal protective equipment outside the hospital.

Our recent experience with COVID-19 is a dramatic and frightening example of the Buddhist concept of interdependence. Interdependence means everything in our world is interconnected with, and effected by, everything else.

I am writing this article on a laptop that couldn't exist without the physical materials it's made from or the scientific knowledge that guided the design.

You can read this because of the educational system you attended, and you're seeing these words because they were printed on newsprint and distributed to a retail outlet or to your home by someone.

During this time of COVID-19 precautions, we are all becoming hyperaware of how interconnected and dependent on others we really are. Social distancing mandates demonstrate how essential person-to-person interactions are in our daily lives.

The temporary closing of nonessential services like factories, retail businesses, restaurants and even non-emergency health services to limit the spread of COVID-19 have put millions of people out of work.

Social distancing rules also have had a devastating effect on societies most vulnerable people, those living in nursing homes. Unless you have a loved one in a nursing home or provide support to those who live there as I do, as a hospice social worker, you may not realize that nursing homes have been locked down to outside visitors for the last month.

The elderly are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and the risk of the virus being introduced into a confined environment where residents are in such close proximity and require a high level of hands-on care is deemed too risky to allow any opportunities for contamination from outside.

Most of us who are restricted to our homes can still reach out to friends and family using our computers or telephones to check in and provide emotional support. Many nursing home residents suffer from physical and mental conditions that prevent them from using these tools.

These residents depend on the emotional support of loved ones that can only be provided through in-person visits. Facility staffers build relationships with residents and provide support, but confused residents don't remember why family and friends are no longer visiting.

Appreciating interdependence means looking at the people and things that support us in our life with a higher level of awareness.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given us all the opportunity to re-evaluate the physical and emotional support we provide to each other and which we depend on to thrive.

Today's Insights was written by Kunga Nyima, coordinator of the St. Joseph Buddhist Sangha. Insights is written by area clergy to give different viewpoints on a variety of topics. It is published each Saturday in cooperation with the Berrien County Association of Churches. The views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views of member churches.

WICKS

From page C2

"First things first, yes, I know that 'Backwards' isn't spelled like that," he wrote online. "The album began as a collection of songs I'd written long ago and never gotten around to recording, and I was going to call it 'Lost & Found.' Then I found out Mudvayne had an album called that already, and I didn't want to anymore. Meanwhile, my last album, 'Soon,' got a lot of the older songs, because they worked well in a stripped-down setting. They're all pretty reflective, though. Words written while looking back."

When he was able to play live, the settings were diverse.

"There's not a shortage of brew pups, and I've played a lot of wineries," he said. "I like to play to big crowds. I enjoy being in front of people. I don't mind smaller groups, but you get a lot of nice listening crowds in those big venues."

Wicks started playing music when he was 13. His dad had a band in the '70s, and he always listened to him play.

"One day, they needed a bass player, and I asked him to learn," Wicks said.

Since choosing music full time, he's played with several different bands and has produced four solo albums.

One of those albums, "Someone Else's Songs," he describes as rootsy, traditionalist country, with a few concessions to his rock background.

"I recorded most of the instruments myself in my home studio, but I brought in Nelson Wood of the Dusty Chaps band to play pedal steel guitar, bringing the Americana theme of the album to a new level," he said. "My old Snake Oil Charlatans bandmate, Andrew VerLee, threw in some blues guitar on two tracks, and Marcella Herington sang some harmonies. Paul Thayer and Matt Ten Clay were responsible for the mixing and mastering, respectively."

Wicks titled the album after one of the songs on the album, and it was his idea during the recording process to use the album as a songwriting demo to shop the songs to more established country/Americana artists.

"I also called it that because the overall style was more what I'd been listening to and less who I was," he said. "It felt a bit like something someone else had put out, which was new and exciting for me. Really, though, I had to call it something, even though I have to field questions on who actually wrote the songs almost every day."

He said he doesn't usually like to write music unless he has the time.

"Sometimes I make myself," Wicks said. "But if you write when you don't have anything to say, you don't have anything to play."

He said his playing style changes depending on where he is, but he has to play standing up.

"I can't sit when I play. I can't sing that way," he said. "And even if I'm playing in a place that's more reserved, I can't not move just a little bit."

Wicks incorporates different genres into his sets, most recently that's been "jazzy stuff."

"I kind of pop around all over the place," he said. "You have to when you're playing a lot to keep it interesting for yourself."

He said, during performances, he works in a lot of covers with his original songs.

When he's not working on music, he reads a book from the extensive library in his basement.

He said he isn't sure if there's been a favorite moment in his music career to date, he just enjoys being able to do it.

"I'm just looking on getting my name out there, get people familiar with my music, and have fun while I'm doing it," Wicks said.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

CHURCH NOTES

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9193 Cleveland Ave., Baroda, has canceled all face-to-face activities until Michigan's stay-at-home order has been lifted. Worship services can be found online at www.stjohnsbaroda.com.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2673 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville, has canceled all upcoming face-to-face services and activities. The church will continue to hold online services on its Facebook and YouTube pages. For more info, visit www.stpaulswels.org.

All activities at **The Old Rugged Cross Church**, 61041 Vermont St., Pokagon, are canceled until further notice. There will be no hymn sings, concerts, dedication or tours until the state's stay-at-home order is lifted and it is once again safe for groups to gather.

Zion St. Joe United Church of Christ, 3001 Veronica Drive, St. Joseph, continues to hold 10 a.m. Sunday services on its Facebook page: ZionChurchStJoe. The Rev. Adam Bohland will continue his "The Power of Words" series this week with "Religion and Politics."

Worship Services
These area Congregations warmly invite you to attend
Zion St. Joe
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
3001 Veronica Dr.
St. Joseph
269-983-7151
Join us on Facebook at Zion Church St Joe
this Sunday, May 3, at 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Adam Bohland will continue the series
entitled,"The Power of Words"
This week he will speak on
"Religion and Politics"
based on 1 Corinthians 1: 10-12, 12: 31,
and 13: 4-8.
Forward Thinking ~ Family Sized Church
Call 269.983.7151 for more information.
www.zionstjoe.com
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(269) 429-1041
May 3
Mini Series: "Why We Can Face Life Without Fear"
Title:
"Because We Understand the Purpose in Our Trials"
James 1:1-8
We will livestream at
9:00am and 10:35am.
www.YourPlacetoBelong.com
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ALL PUBLIC WORSHIP IS
TEMPORARY SUSPENDED
Please join us on our Facebook page
At 10:00am for our Sunday Service
Sunday Worship Services
8:00 am & 10:30 am (Traditional)
9:15 am (Contemporary in Gym)
We Are A Stephen Ministry Church

ON CAMPUS

Degrees

The follow area student has received a university degree.

Troy University
Troy, Ala.

Paw Paw – Megan Morgan, Bachelor of Science

Honor societies

The following area students have been named to a university's honor society.

Andrews University
Berrien Springs

Berrien Springs – Daranthea Atmadja, Eunbyeol Cho, Kaitlyn Chung, Marleny De Pina, Matthew Durante, Ieti Faletogo, Mary Gayen, Esther Green, Guangyao Li, Ssuyu Liu, Renette Portecop-Prentice, Lala Harimino Ramahefarison, Tsiry Rasamimanana, Feno Ravaoharisoa, Ivette Ruban, Takuma Shinasue, Wilson Sianipar, Ralna Simmonds, Heidi Smoot, Aimee Welcome – all Phi Kappa Phi

Niles – Saul Dominguez, Chrystal Phan – both Phi Kappa Phi

IN BRIEF

Lest We Forget to meet virtually

Lest We Forget will hold its 10 a.m. Wednesday meeting online as a video conference.

Those who are on the current email list will receive a link that connects them to the meeting.

To be added to the email list, email 49wozniak@gmail.com. Participants will need a device with internet access and a camera.

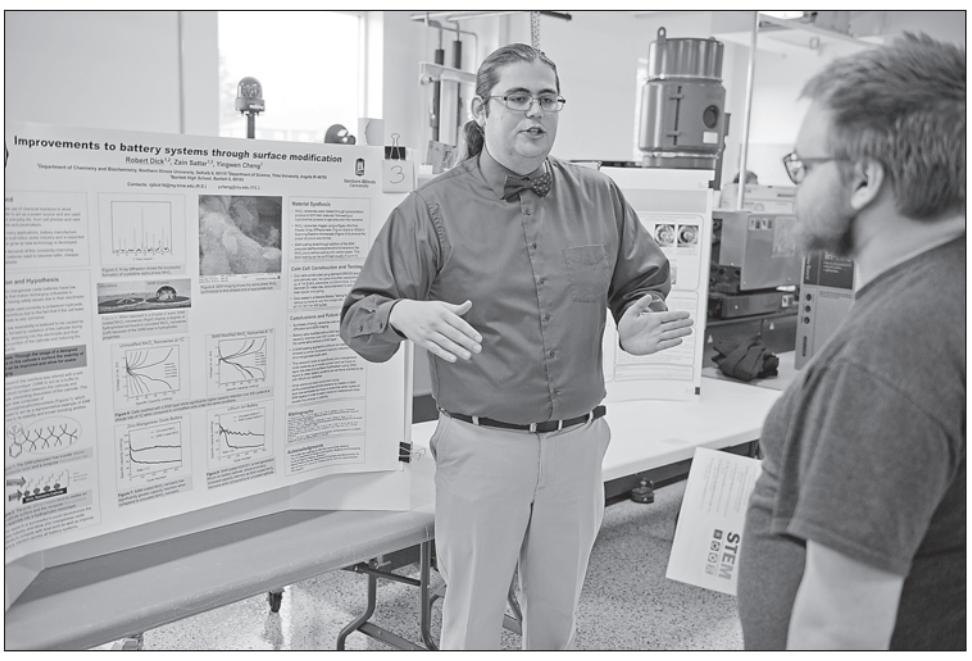


Photo provided / Dean Orewiler

Robert Dick, winner of the Best REU / Graduate Project award at Trine University's second STEM Research and Design Symposium in 2018, shares information about his project with attendees at the symposium.

Robert Dick recognized by Trine University

ANGOLA, Ind. — Late last month, Trine University recognized a number of distinguished students from its Class of 2020, including Robert Dick.

Dick – a Decatur High School graduate and 2016 Herald-Palladium Academic All-Star – is a chemistry major from Lawrence.

He has been accepted into seven graduate schools across the country for Ph.D. programs in chemistry.

He has participated in undergraduate summer research opportunities at Northern Illinois University and the University of Cincinnati, and is completing a senior research project at Trine University.

He is credited as a co-author in an article published in the Journal of Materials Chemistry. He has presented his work five times, including twice in Trine University's STEM Symposium, where he received honors both times.

Consistently named to Trine University's president's list, he serves as president of the university's ACS Chemistry Club. He is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, the Trine University Marching Band, Trine University Wind Ensemble, Trine University Bridge Club and Trine University Magic the Gathering Club. He served as vice president for Trine's Gay Straight Alliance.

He also has served as a judge for the Northeast Indiana Tri-State Regional Science Fair.

SEAMSTRESS DONATES MASKS TO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Photo provided

Susan Hayes-Stender, a resident of Van Buren County and a local business owner, recently donated reusable face masks to Sheriff Daniel Abbott and the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office so employees could stay safe.

FREE BOOKS, ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FROM LIBRARY

Photo provided

To help keep children engaged and reading, Hartford Public Library has free bags of activities, crayons and books available for children on its front porch. There are pre-kindergarten to first grade bags for younger children, and Star Wars activities, plus books, for the older children.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Photo provided / www.ePlans.com

Clean, sleek lines deliver modern curb appeal, while mixed siding adds visual interest to this facade. See more images online at www.ePlans.com/collection/house-of-the-week.

Modern details with an open layout

This brand-new modern design does not skimp on style. With clean lines and an open floor plan between the kitchen and living room, this house plan is all about chic convenience.

The master suite boasts a modern soaking tub, walk-in shower, dual sinks and two closets. Located on the second level, the laundry room makes it easy to throw in a load.

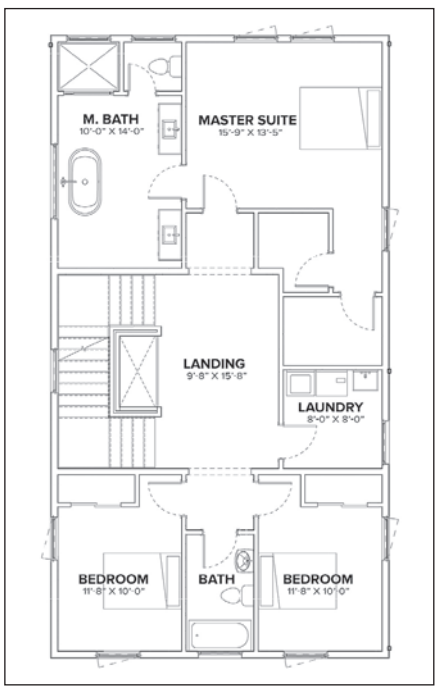
The third level features a roof deck for outdoor enjoyment when the weather is nice. The multi-purpose loft makes a nice place for reading, working or just hanging out.

To build this home, order a complete set of construction documents by calling 866-228-0193 or visit www.ePlans.com/collection/house-of-the-week. Enter the design number to locate the plan and view more images and details.

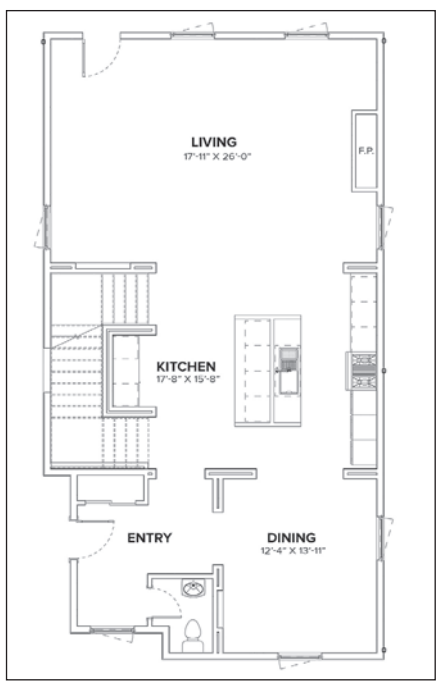
Visit the website to view previously featured plans, browse other specialty collections or search to find exactly what you want from more than 28,000 home designs. Most plans can be customized.

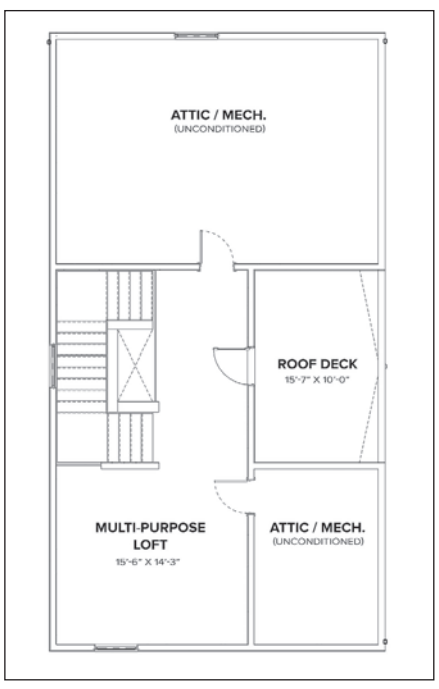
Save 10 percent on your house plans (some exclusions apply) with coupon code: NEWSPAPER.

– www.ePlans.com



Design number: 1076-3
Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2 1/2
Framing: 2-by-6
Square footage: 2,583 square feet
Dimensions: 27-feet by 50-feet





THANK YOU!

The Herald-Palladium

The Herald-Palladium wants to thank all of our readers for your continued support of local journalism.

Whether you receive delivery daily, on the weekends, buy at one of our many dealer or vending machine locations or read online, your support is appreciated more than you know.

Even during these difficult times, our staff is here reporting the latest in local news, printing the newspaper for you and ensuring the paper is distributed for you.

We hope we are meeting your needs for local information. As always we want to hear from you, both when we meet or exceed your expectations and if we ever fall short.

Again, thank you.

The Herald-Palladium Staff

Snags reported with IRS stimulus checks

Michelle Singletary

Tens of millions of Americans are still waiting for their $1,200 stimulus checks – but some payments have already gone out to people who don't even remotely qualify as Americans in need.

Elizabeth B., a U.K. national who asked that her last name not be used for fear of backlash, was shocked to find that her U.S. bank account had received a direct deposit from the IRS for $1,200. She received the payment on April 15.

The $2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, provides a $1,200 refundable tax credit for qualified individuals and $2,400 for qualified joint filers. There is an additional payment of $500 for every dependent child under 17.

In an effort to quickly disburse the stimulus money, the IRS used people's tax returns from either 2018 or 2019. If you got a refund in those years, you were among the first to receive money under the Cares Act. Nearly 90 million Americans received their $1,200 stimulus payments including people who received payments meant for deceased spouses, parents and siblings – and Elizabeth.

"I was totally shocked," Elizabeth said in telephone interview from her London home. "I never for a minute thought it was a possibility that I would get this money. I'm a rich foreigner getting American money. I don't deserve this money. There are so many people in America who need it. I appreciate that the IRS had to get the money out fast so they couldn't do thorough checks. But it just feels so wrong to have it in my account."

Elizabeth worked for several years in New York under an E2 investor visa as a communications consultant. She had a Social Security number and paid taxes, as required under the conditions of her visa. In 2018, she earned $13,000 for just a few months before returning to the U.K. Had she remained stateside for the rest of the year, her annual income would have put her beyond the $99,000 individual cap for a stimulus payment.

Under the CARES Act, U.S. citizens, permanent residents, qualifying resident aliens, including those on the E2 visas who meet the IRS' "substantial presence test" for the calendar year are eligible for stimulus payments if their adjusted gross income falls under certain limits.

Individuals with annual adjusted gross incomes (AGI) of $75,000 or less are eligible for the full $1,200 check. Married couples are eligible for $2,400 as long as their AGI income is under $150,000 a year.

If you're single and your AGI is more than $99,000, you do not qualify for a stimulus payment. If you earn more than $136,500 and file as head of household, you do not qualify for a payment. For married people filing jointly, the cutoff for any payment is an AGI above $198,000.

After returning home, Elizabeth filed a 2018 return and received a $300 refund, which was deposited in a U.S. bank account that she has kept open.

The E-2 nonimmigrant visa allows foreign nationals of certain countries such as the U.K. to be admitted to the U.S. when investing a substantial amount of capital in a U.S. business, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Elizabeth worked and received her visa under this program.

Unable to reach anyone at the IRS to figure out how to return the $1,200, Elizabeth sent me an email. "I cannot possibly be the only nonresident getting this payment," she said.

The IRS and Treasury did not comment on how many individuals who are no longer living in the U.S. may have received stimulus money.

As with much of the broader federal stimulus effort, the urgency to get funds to 150 million Americans has resulted in payment snafus and technological glitches. Despite assurances from Treasury and the IRS that payments would be sent a certain way or deposited in people's accounts on a particular day, many Social Security, disability and veterans beneficiaries are reporting that this is not happening.

Thousands of people have reached out to The Washington Post reporting payments were sent in error or never received. Parents are missing the $500 extra money for dependent children under 17. Others are unsure what to do with payments directed to recently deceased spouses and relatives. In earlier interviews, an IRS spokesman said it's likely a surviving spouse could keep a payment sent to a deceased partner. A spokeswoman said this week, "We will be issuing guidance on this issue shortly."

Until a decision is made, foreign nationals, spouses, and heirs would be wise to hold on to the money in the event the funds have to be returned to the IRS.

Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071. Her email address is michelle.singletary@washpost.com. Follow her on Twitter (@SingletaryM) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MichelleSingletary).

Ask the Fool

Book Value, Explained

Q What's a company's book value? — *G.H., West Palm Beach, Florida*

A Book value is an accounting measure that investors sometimes look at to get an idea of a company's intrinsic value. Boiled down, book value is simply the company's total assets, less its total liabilities. It's showing you what shareholders would own once debts and liabilities are covered.

Book value's usefulness has shrunk somewhat as our economy has evolved. It worked well when most businesses were simpler and capital-intensive, with assets such as factories, equipment and land appearing on the balance sheet. It works less well today, though, as there are gobs of service-oriented companies and high-tech companies that are heavy on intangible assets, such as patents and goodwill (an accounting measure often tied to acquisitions).

Consider Facebook, with many assets that don't register significantly on the balance sheet: intellectual property, employees, a strong brand and a massive worldwide network of customers. As of the end of 2019, its total assets were $133.4 billion and its total liabilities $32.3 billion, leaving a book value of $101.1 billion. That's far less than its recent market value of roughly $540 billion.

Consider, too, a company that owns many buildings: Over the years, their value on the balance sheet is depreciated, eventually to zero. They're not really worth zero, though, and they can even appreciate over time. Such a company can also be worth much more than its book value. With many companies, your best bet is to ignore book value.

***

Q What's an ETF? — *R.M., Barre, Vermont*

A Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) are bundles of securities, very much like mutual funds; the difference is that they trade like shares on a stock exchange.

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Annuities 101

Consider including annuities in your retirement plan. With an annuity, you pay an insurance company a sum of money in exchange for a promise of a payment or series of payments beginning now or in the future. The payments can be for a certain number of years, or the rest of your life. Here are the main types of annuities:

• Fixed immediate annuities: These are basic, classic annuities: You hand over a lump sum and get a specified income for the rest of your life, or for a specified period. They can help you avoid running out of money later in life, and they can protect your spouse, as well; they can even offer inflation protection. These annuities can be a good way to lock down some guaranteed income.

• Fixed deferred annuities: These start paying you at a specified point in the future. One set up to start paying you at age 80 or 85 could be useful, in case your other funds are running out by then. They also free you from having to monitor investments late in life — you'll simply collect the checks.

• Variable annuities: Some variable annuities may be appealing, but many charge steep fees and hefty "surrender charges" if you need your money back. Their returns are often not stellar, either. They also tend to be very complicated financial instruments, and it's always best to avoid what you don't fully understand.

• Equity-indexed annuities: These are highly problematic. They may be advertised as offering a "guaranteed" return based on the performance of an index (such as the S&P 500 stock index), but that return is likely to be several percentage points lower than the index's — and it will often be capped. So if the S&P 500 soars 18%, you might get only, say, a 10% return. And that's before any fees, which can be significant. You'd likely do much better simply investing in the stock index itself.

For clear and concise retirement advice, try our "Rule Your Retirement" service at **Fool.com/services**.

My Dumbest Investment

Time Is Money

My dumbest investment was not investing soon enough. I wanted to get into the market, but I was too nervous and constantly put it off. I wasted a few valuable years of gains. Now I spend time trying to get others comfortable with getting in! My lesson learned: Time is money. — *K.D., online*

The Fool Responds: That's a great lesson indeed.

Imagine that you start investing at age 40 and sock away $5,000 per year for 25 years, until you're 65, and that you earn an average annual gain of 8%: You'd end up with nearly $400,000. But if you'd started five years earlier, at age 35, and saved and invested for a total of 30 years, you'd end up with more than $600,000 — a difference of more than $200,000!

No one should jump into the stock market until they're comfortable with what they're doing, so it's smart to read up on the topic first — ideally, while you're still young. You don't even have to read and learn very much, if you just stick with low-fee, broad-market index mutual funds, such as ones that track the S&P 500.

Not everyone can sock away $5,000 annually, but invest however much you can, and remember that only money you won't need for five (or even 10) years should be in stocks, as the market can be volatile.

The Motley Fool Take

A Pharmaceutical Bargain

Big pharma titan Pfizer (NYSE: PFE) has had a dismal year. The company's shares were recently down more than 35% from their 52-week high, reaching a five-year low. Apart from the coronavirus-induced sell-off, Pfizer's shares have also suffered from a lack of confidence among investors.

Possible government price controls are one worry, but there's also Pfizer's plan to spin off its generic drug business Upjohn, pairing it with Mylan and forming a new entity called Viatris. As this move will significantly shrink the company's annual revenue, investors appear to be concerned about the sustainability of Pfizer's top-notch dividend (recently yielding 4.1%), along with its prospects as a growth-oriented branded drug company.

These concerns are likely way overblown, though. First, current Pfizer shareholders will own a piece of Viatris. That's important because the combined yield of Pfizer and Viatris should at least equal — and quite possibly exceed — the company's current annualized payout.

Also, Pfizer has laid out a strong case explaining why its five core growth products — Vyndaqel, Ibrance, Xeljanz, Eliquis and Prevnar — should deliver top-line growth of at least 6% per year for the next five years. Once the global pandemic fades, Pfizer should come roaring back. (The Motley Fool has recommended Mylan.)

Name That Company

I trace my roots back to the 1802 creation of a gunpowder mill on the Brandywine River in Delaware by a French immigrant and family friend of Thomas Jefferson. In 1903, I set up my Experimental Station, one of the world's first industrial research and development facilities; here, products such as nylon, Lycra, Kevlar and Tyvek were conceived, along with neoprene – the first synthetic rubber. Today, my market value is over $30 billion, and my brands include Corian and Styrofoam. I completed a merger with Dow Chemical in 2017 and then spun it off in 2019. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to the 1806 launch of a starch, soap and candle business in New York City. In 1896, I debuted toothpaste in a collapsible tube. My name is the product of a 1928 merger. Today, with a market value recently topping $62 billion, I'm a consumer products giant with many brands, such as Tom's of Maine, Speed Stick, Softsoap, Irish Spring, Murphy Oil Soap, EltaMD, Ajax, Fabuloso and Hill's Science Diet. I've paid uninterrupted dividends on my common stock since 1895, and have hiked that payout for 57 consecutive years. Who am I? (Answer: Colgate-Palmolive)

Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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How to ask your bank or lender for help

Liz Weston

Many banks, credit card issuers and other lenders have promised to help those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. They're offering to defer or reduce payments and waive interest charges and rebate fees for those who have lost jobs, had their hours reduced or otherwise lost income to the COVID-19 crisis.

The help usually isn't automatic, however. You have to ask for it – and ask the right way.

"In many cases, you only get the help if you contact your creditor and mention that you need relief due to the coronavirus situation," said Lauren Saunders, associate director of the National Consumer Law Center. "And that's very frustrating because it's very difficult to get through to your bank or lender."

Many financial institutions are encouraging people to reach out digitally – through live chats or messaging on the companies' sites or in their mobile apps. However you connect, there are important questions that need to be answered.

Among them:

'What steps do I need to take to qualify?'

You can start your research on the financial institution's site to see what kinds of help may be available and how to apply. Generally, you'll want to confirm the details with a human being, including the steps you must take to apply, says Saunders, who advises keeping a record of the conversation and what you were told. You can take written notes of phone calls, including the time, date and name of the company representative, or take screenshots of electronic communications.

"Some people assume that (a hardship program) will automatically kick in if they just miss a payment, which is very dangerous to assume," says Bruce McClary, a spokesman for the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

Skipped payments can lead to credit score damage and collection calls, and could limit the hardship options available.

There's one forbearance program that is automatic, but it pertains only to student loans held by the federal government. Payments on those loans are suspended until Sept. 30, and interest has been waived.

'Exactly how does it work?'

Companies take different approaches to their hardship programs. One lender may allow you to skip payments but charge you late fees; another may waive the fees but report skipped payments to the credit bureaus. Most will continue to charge interest, and some will expect you to make a lump sum payment of the amount you skipped.

"This is not free money," Saunders said. "It's just putting off a debt that you'll have to repay along with your other debts later."

Even if your financial hardship is over, you may not be able to cough up several months' worth of payments at once, McClary notes.

"The last thing you want is to have to drop some big lump sum of money on somebody when you're in a financially fragile state," McClary said. "It's important to try to negotiate different terms."

Ask if the payments can be tacked on to the end of the loan or paid off over time, McClary said. Also request that the account be reported "paid as agreed" to the credit bureaus to avoid a potentially large hit to your credit scores.

'How long will thehelp last?'

A hardship program may last three to six months, but you may have the option to extend the relief if you ask.

If you can't make the payments on your federally backed mortgage because of the coronavirus pandemic, for example, you have the right to skip payments for nearly a year. The CARES Act requires lenders to give affected borrowers forbearance of up to 180 days, with the option to request an additional 180 days after that.

Lenders may not make that clear, however. Some borrowers who asked for mortgage forbearance in recent days were told they would owe a lump sum after three months, with no mention of the potential extensions.

These rules apply only to mortgages backed by federal entities, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the Veterans Administration (VA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). But most mortgage lenders have some type of hardship program or loan modification options.

Don't put off asking for help if you're struggling, since it's not clear when coronavirus-related economic disruptions will end. It's better to have more help than you need than to need more help than you have.

Liz Weston is a columnist at NerdWallet, a certified financial planner and author of "Your Credit Score." Email: lweston@nerdwallet.com. Twitter: @lizweston.

hp BUSINESS

BUSINESS PEOPLE

New controller joins Wolverine Mutual

DOWAGIAC — Becky Grabemeyer, CPA, recently joined Wolverine Mutual Insurance Co. in Dowagiac as the controller.

She is responsible for overseeing the regional insurance company's accounting department. Grabemeyer brings more than a decade of experience to the position including five years as finance director for the city of Dowagiac.

Before working for the city, Grabemeyer served eight years at Accounting Consultants, P.C., in Dowagiac.

Grabemeyer grew up in Eau Claire, earning an associate degree from Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac and a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Colorado Technical University in Colorado Springs.

She became a certified public accountant in 2011. She resides in Dowagiac with her husband and two children.

Thompson joins Hanson Logistics

ST. JOSEPH — Jim Thompson joined Hanson Logistics as the company's senior director of transportation.

Thompson comes to Hanson Logistics from Whirlpool Corp., where he played major roles in integrated supply chain, logistics operations and strategic sourcing areas. Prior to Whirlpool, Jim worked at Ford Motor Co.

As a member of the senior leadership team, he will report directly to Hanson Logistics President and CEO Ken Whah.

Thompson holds an executive supply chain certificate from Michigan State University, MBA from Wayne State University, and bachelor's degree in integrated supply chain management from Western Michigan University.

Items for Business People should be emailed to business@TheHP.com, faxed to 429-4398 or mailed to The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph MI 49085.

Brian Cassella / Chicago Tribune / TNS

Workers fill boxes to ship at an Amazon fulfillment center in Romeoville, Ill.

How the distribution network could change post-pandemic

As Americans have stayed home, deliveries have struggled to keep up

By RYAN ORI
Chicago Tribune

Closed restaurants and shops, hoarding of household staples and a surge in online orders have exposed holes in America's delivery network amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Now, while consumers search for products such as face masks, hand soap, toilet paper and groceries, companies are evaluating major changes to where their products are made and how those goods are delivered.

At a time when much of the commercial real estate industry is at a standstill, that spells dollars and jobs for developers, builders, shippers and others in the industrial real estate and logistics sectors. Long-term job gains may be minimized by increasing adoption of automation, though.

"This pandemic has moved everything up maybe five years, where people who weren't ordering online have had no choice other than to use the internet," said Tony Pricco, president of Chicago-based warehouse developer Bridge Development Partners. "Now they're seeing how easy it is, and they'll continue to use it."

"There are definitely winners and losers that are going to come out of this," he said.

Even the most successful online retailers and busiest distribution hubs face challenges, as the COVID-19 health crisis has demonstrated.

Amazon's vaunted distribution network has buckled under the strain of widespread stay-at-home mandates, creating huge backlogs of online orders of food and other items.

Amazon is far from alone. Call up just about any retailer's website and there's a message about delayed shipments.

The struggles are a reminder that e-commerce, ubiquitous as it seems, is still emerging.

In 2019, 11 percent of all retail sales were from e-commerce, an increase from 9.9 percent the previous year, according to the Census Bureau.

"Most people would guess that the total percentage of online sales in this country is higher than it actually is," said Mark Barbato, a director at Chicago-based office developer Sterling Bay, which is now branching out into industrial projects.

Every tick up in online sales requires vast swaths of additional real estate.

That has led to soaring demand in the Chicago area since the financial crisis more than a decade ago, likely leaving the industrial sector in a position to weather the latest downturn better than other property types such as office, retail and apartment buildings.

"What does that look like if it spikes to 15 or even 20 percent?" Barbato said of the share of online sales. "There's certainly room to run."

Once upon a time, retailers followed a hub-and-spoke distribution model, creating a massive warehouse – typically along an interstate – to supply dozens of stores in a region.

Online sellers upended that model by offering deliveries directly to consumers. As online sales rose and same-day delivery grew more popular, Amazon and its rivals assembled networks that now include smaller fulfillment centers near dense populations.

But despite all the building that's gone on, the pandemic's stay-at-home orders, panic buying and product shortages show there's room for improvement.

Experts say companies may decide to bulk up their inventories. Meanwhile, retailers will continue gobbling up smaller urban facilities to get closer to homes.

That means added real estate costs, at a time when companies are hoarding cash and new buildings are more difficult to finance because of a faltering overall economy.

The costliest industrial buildings to construct, cold storage facilities, could be in particularly high demand after long backlogs of online grocery orders.

Broader adoption of grocery delivery will create demand for 75 million to 100 million square feet of new cold storage facilities nationwide, according to a report from commercial real estate brokerage CBRE.

Because of their high cost, freezer-cooler buildings are rarely built on speculation, or without tenants signed, he said. But with demand soaring, Bridge is considering spec projects in Los Angeles and Miami, Pricco said.

Factory space also could be in for a boost.

After experiencing shortages of some manufacturing components that come from hard-hit countries such as China, some U.S. companies are likely to return some production to the U.S., Tolliver said.

"The cost of the pandemic and the realization that these things can be paralyzing is really amplifying those conversations in boardrooms," Tolliver said.

Manufacturers may choose to make parts in several locations throughout the country or world, to guard against illnesses or natural disasters in individual locations, he said.

Outsourcing your small business payroll processing

Paying employees involves far more than just cutting a check on payday. Managing your small business's payroll encompasses a variety of responsibilities that need to be met accurately and on time.

■ As an employer, you must:
■ Withhold employee taxes.
■ Pay withholdings to government agencies.
■ File quarterly reports.
■ Issue W-2 forms at the end of the tax year.
■ Issue summary filings to the state.
■ Manage your employees' health plan and retirement contributions.
■ Handle state disability, unemployment and family leave assessments.
■ Inform the government when you hire new employees and when employees leave your company.

If that sounds overwhelming, you might be wondering if you'd be better off delegating the work to a payroll company. Outsourcing your small business payroll has its advantages and some disadvantages.

SCORE™

This column is provided by SCORE, an organization dedicated to helping small businesses start, grow and succeed. The local SCORE chapter provide free and confidential mentoring in management, accounting, marketing and business plan preparation.

Pros of outsourcing payroll

■ It could save you time. You won't be bogged down with calculating payroll deductions, remitting checks, etc.
■ It could give you greater peace of mind. With a service provider specializing in handling your payroll, you might sleep better at night knowing payroll taxes will be calculated accurately and paid on time. A reputable payroll company will have a staff knowledgeable and up-to-date on all payroll tax deduction rules.
■ It could save you money and make you more productive. Although you're paying someone else to manage your payroll, you free up your in-house resources (including yourself) to take care of other important aspects of your business. Rather than spend time trying to figure out payroll and fix errors, you can instead focus on generating sales and innovating new products and services.

Cons of outsourcing payroll

■ You may pay for more than what you really need. Some payroll services bundle offerings together in all-inclusive packages. Be wary of these as they might include services you don't need and will never use.
■ Errors might happen if your business has unique circumstances. If your business deals with situations the payroll service provider isn't familiar handling (e.g., union employees, tips made by restaurant or salon employees, etc.), the company may make unintentional errors. You need to be sure you choose a service with staff that understands your industry/type of business and your company's specific needs.
■ You relinquish some control but are still ultimately responsible. This can be a bit unnerving; even if a mistake wasn't your fault, you may be subject to fines for inaccuracies or late payroll tax payments.

Tips for choosing a payroll service provider

■ Ask around. Talk with other small business owners to find out whom they use and what their experience with those providers has been like. SCORE mentors can also help you evaluate and connect with reputable payroll service providers.
■ Talk with your accountant. This can give you insight into the right questions to ask and what expertise to look for.
■ Ask for detailed pricing. When getting a quote, ask for an itemized breakdown of fees. That way, you'll see if their services cover what you need and you can make sure you won't be paying for anything you won't need.

Questions to ask prospective providers

■ When and how often will I receive reports from you?
■ Will your system integrate with my accounting software?
■ What is the turnaround time to process payroll after you have my information?
■ If a mistake is made, how quickly will you correct it?
■ Do you charge additional fees for adding employees or changing employee payroll information?
■ If we have to file taxes in multiple states, do you charge an additional fee?
■ Will you assign my company a dedicated representative?
■ What are your customer service and technical support hours?
■ Is your system capable of handling employees' health and retirement plan contributions?

A careful thought

When deciding whether to keep payroll responsibilities in-house or outsource them, you will need to carefully weigh the pros and cons. Consider the level of comfort and expertise your staff has (or lacks) in dealing with payroll tasks and weigh that against the ongoing costs associated with contracting a payroll service provider.

Don't make this important decision in haste, as it will affect your bottom line and how you spend your time.

Classifieds

"Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm."
– John Muir

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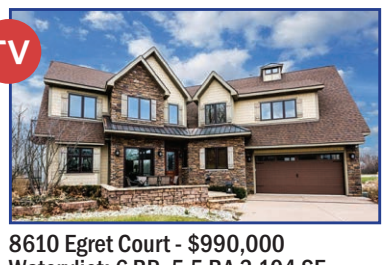

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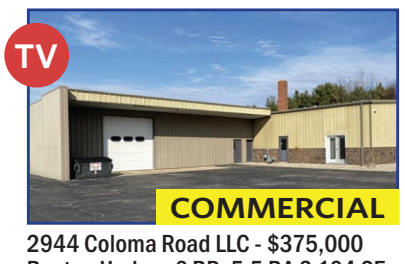

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LEGALS

LEGALS

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CITY BUDGET

The City Commission of the City of St. Joseph will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, in the Commission Chambers, 700 Broad Street, on the City's proposed 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget/General Appropriations Ordinance.

The property tax millage rates proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The City Commission will take action on the proposed budget following the public hearing.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available for public inspection on the City of St. Joseph website, www.sjcity.com.

This notice is published by The City of St. Joseph
700 Broad Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-983-5541

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOST

South Haven/ Covert, MI
LOST!!!
White Chihuahua
with Tan Spots
8lbs, Female
Last seen 4/29
On 76th St
Name is Peanut
Please Call:
269-308-1930
269-621-5600
REWARD!!!!

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at 269-313-7001
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& Scrap Metal
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269-463-3565

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chair rail, crown, 3
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Brand name"
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Triumph
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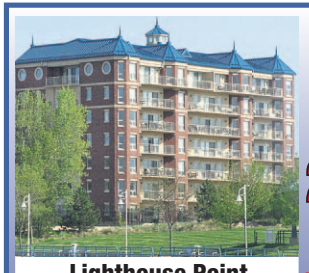

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Call (269) 369-4545 or visit
DickinsonEstates.com

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Follow your heart when it comes to what makes you happy. Get involved with people and things that bring out the best in you. Aim high and believe in what you are capable of doing. Choose to make a positive lifestyle change this year.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Surround yourself with people who share your concerns. Take care of an unfinished project and start something new. Look for a way to turn something you enjoy doing into a profitable venture.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Watch what others do, but don't get involved. The observations you make will help you take appropriate action. Channel your energy into doing something fun or getting some exercise.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Use initiative and insight to make a difference. Volunteer for a cause or make improvements to the way you live. Offer to help someone you love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Take your time. Contemplate your options and consider what's important to you. Discuss personal contracts and be prepared to make a promise. Plan a romantic evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Stop waffling and make the changes you've been contemplating. You'll learn a lot if you get involved in something unfamiliar. Pay closer attention to quality, not quantity, and you will get better results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Keep your day simple and your tasks reasonable. Physical activity will take the edge off situations you have to live with for the time being. Romance is in the stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Pay attention to your relationships with others. Consider who is right for you and who isn't. Refuse to let anyone limit what you can do. Walk away from disruptive situations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Let go of the past. Keep manipulative people at a distance. An ultimatum isn't the way to win favors or get what you want. If you care about someone, share your feelings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Push for what you want and don't give up until you have a firm deal in place. An innovative change at home will lead to new possibilities. Don't buy into someone's risky venture.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Put things in perspective and protect yourself against someone who is unreliable and asking for too much. Make a change at home that will add to your safety, enjoyment or peace of mind.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Make a decision that will push you in a direction you've been longing to pursue. Don't hold on to something that is no longer working for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't overreact or take on too much. Take care of responsibilities and reward yourself. A personal pick-me-up or romantic evening is favored.

CROSSWORD

Crossword Answers D3

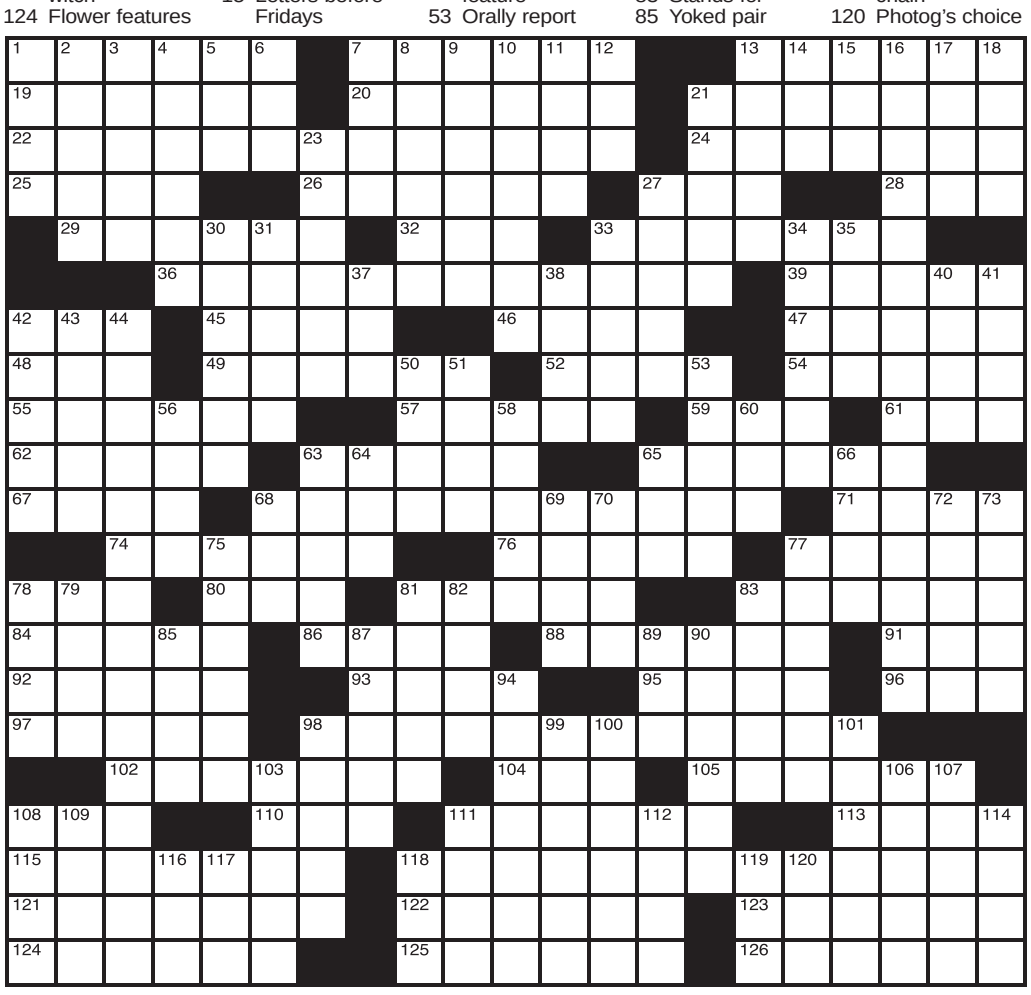
Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"GET MOVING"
By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER

ACROSS
1 One on a stroll
7 Absolute
13 Some recyclables
19 Louisiana cuisine
20 Gets the old gang together
21 Tapas bar libation
22 LEAP
24 Acts as a self-appointed regulator of
25 Bit of a jam
26 Glitterati groups
27 Film studio VIP
28 Tint
29 Eccentric sort
32 God, in Genoa
33 Accept as true
36 DASH
39 Make anew, as a trench
42 Liquid from a trunk
45 Summoned, in a way
46 Portable Asian shelter
47 Elliott of hip-hop
48 Half a frozen potato brand
49 Keyboards with stops
52 Forensic analysts, briefly
54 Prefix with act or play
55 Readied for impact
57 Figure __
59 It may be fake
61 Speed Wagon make
62 Some saxes
63 Instrument in a piano trio
65 River craft for early French explorers
67 Husband-and-wife creators of Curious George
68 BOLT
71 PC virus check
74 They may precede bat flips
76 Bring joy to
77 Chips on the table
78 Love of Lennon's life
80 Copy
81 DKNY label creator
83 Wee
84 Layer of bricks
86 Sermon subjects
88 One carrying a torch
91 Turncoat
92 Billy Joel's songwriting daughter
93 Thesis: Abbr.
95 Ávila aunts
96 EMT destinations
97 Dorm diet staple
98 HOP
102 Queued up
104 Butte-to-Helena dir.
105 E-flat equivalent
108 More, in Mazatlán
110 URL ending
111 "Being and Nothingness" author
113 Drive-__
115 Reach
118 SKIP
121 Sir __, nickname for the NBA's Barkley
122 Safer on TV
123 Baum's good witch
124 Flower features
125 Golf course design features
126 "Gunsmoke" star

DOWN
1 Hail __
2 Head honcho
3 Suisse capital
4 Call from the back
5 '70s supergroup, initially
6 Like many AARP mems.
7 Depleted sea
8 Make a home (in)
9 Cosmonaut's home
10 Pre-med subject
11 Strips in a darkroom, briefly
12 "Cats" monogram
13 New Zealand settler
14 Blowup: Abbr.
15 Letters before Fridays
16 VAULT
17 Place
18 Postpaid encl.
21 Word in a "What's done is done" proverb
23 Kitchen prep job
27 Teeth: Pref.
30 2/3 of 100?
31 Online greeting
33 Like a ruined balloon
34 White fur
35 Marble characteristic
37 Gp. for good drivers
38 Cry from a sting
40 "Got it"
41 Greek sandwich
42 Bollywood soundtrack strings
43 Singer with numbered albums
44 RUN
50 Jodie Foster title role
51 Rural skyline feature
53 Orally report
56 Barely worth mentioning
58 Errand runner
60 Part of NCAA: Abbr.
63 Apple leftovers
64 37-Down's Ernie
65 Tweet creator, at times
66 A-apple link
68 Brief sign of status
69 __ hammer
70 Place with pins and balls
72 Rose extract
73 Russian rejections
75 Sábado, on viernes
77 Cherry-flavored brandy
78 "A Jug of Wine ... " poet
79 Animated queen
81 Word with bread or butter
82 Little helper?
83 Stands for
85 Yoked pair
87 Picking from a mug book
89 Part of LLC: Abbr.
90 Royal headwear
94 Rat Pack leader
98 Sacks
99 Sign up
100 Fixed rate
101 Uses HelloFresh, say
103 Can't get enough of
106 Cologne's river
107 Nudges along
108 "Big" fast-food orders
109 Tylenol target
111 Garbage hauler
112 Rob __: cocktails
114 Some, in San Juan
116 Nest egg acronym
117 Bracket shape
118 Early hrs.
119 Franchise-based supermarket chain
120 Photog's choice



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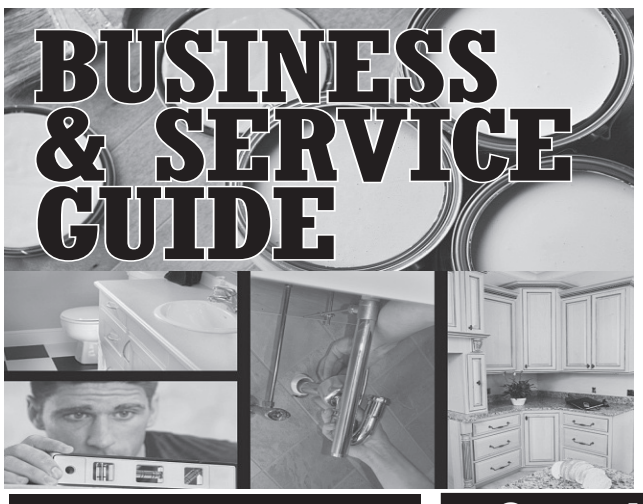

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Willie Nearn Jr.
and Associates
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Making things happen by getting things done
TRIM YOUR TREES BEFORE THE LEAVES!

Answer To Today's Puzzle

A	M	B	L	E	R		A	R	R	A	N	T			M	E	T	A	L	S
C	R	E	O	L	E		R	E	U	N	E	S		S	A	N	G	R	I	A
A	B	R	U	P	T	P	A	S	S	A	G	E		P	O	L	I	C	E	S
B	I	N	D			A	L	I	S	T	S		D	I	R			H	U	E
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M	A	S	O	N		S	I	N	S		W	E	L	D	E	R		R	A	T
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A	C	H	I	E	V	E		A	C	T	O	F	O	M	I	S	S	I	O	N
C	H	A	R	L	E	S		M	O	R	L	E	Y		G	L	I	N	D	A
S	E	P	A	L	S			S	W	A	L	E	S		A	R	N	E	S	S

5/3/20

MAKE SOME MONEY

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!

RESERVE THIS SPACE TODAY!

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Turn your attention to the people and things that bring you the most joy. Sharing your intentions and making big plans will bring you one step closer to the life you want to live. Pay attention, and you'll hear of an opportunity that will change your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't shy away from change when you can embrace it. Take on a challenge that has a worthwhile reward. Don't let uncertainty or fear cause you to miss out. Take care of whatever comes your way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Handle emotional matters with care. Don't trust unreliable sources. Put your energy into personal pursuits that will increase your knowledge, improve your appearance or bring you joy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Do things your way and keep moving forward. A change you make at home will help you do chores more easily. Discussions will improve a meaningful relationship.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't let impulse take control. Avoid unwise purchases, ramshackle plans and risky joint ventures. Go over personal contracts and check for loopholes. Romance is favored.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Don't let the past hold you back. Learn from experience and put your faith in the future. Follow your instincts when dealing with your health and affairs of the heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Take care of your responsibilities without asking for help. Other people will slow you down, criticize and complain. A change at home will turn out better than anticipated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Use your charm, ingenuity and persuasive tactics to get others to pitch in and help. A partnership looks promising if you give each other enough space to grow personally and creatively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Face change and obstacles head-on. If you are up-front, you will gain respect as well as the help you need to improve your life. Make love and romance priorities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Get together with friends or make changes at home that will add to your comfort. A heart-to-heart talk with someone close to you will resolve pending issues and concerns.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Don't put up with threats or ultimatums. Know when to walk away from situations that are detrimental to your health, finances or emotional well-being. Pay more attention to your needs.

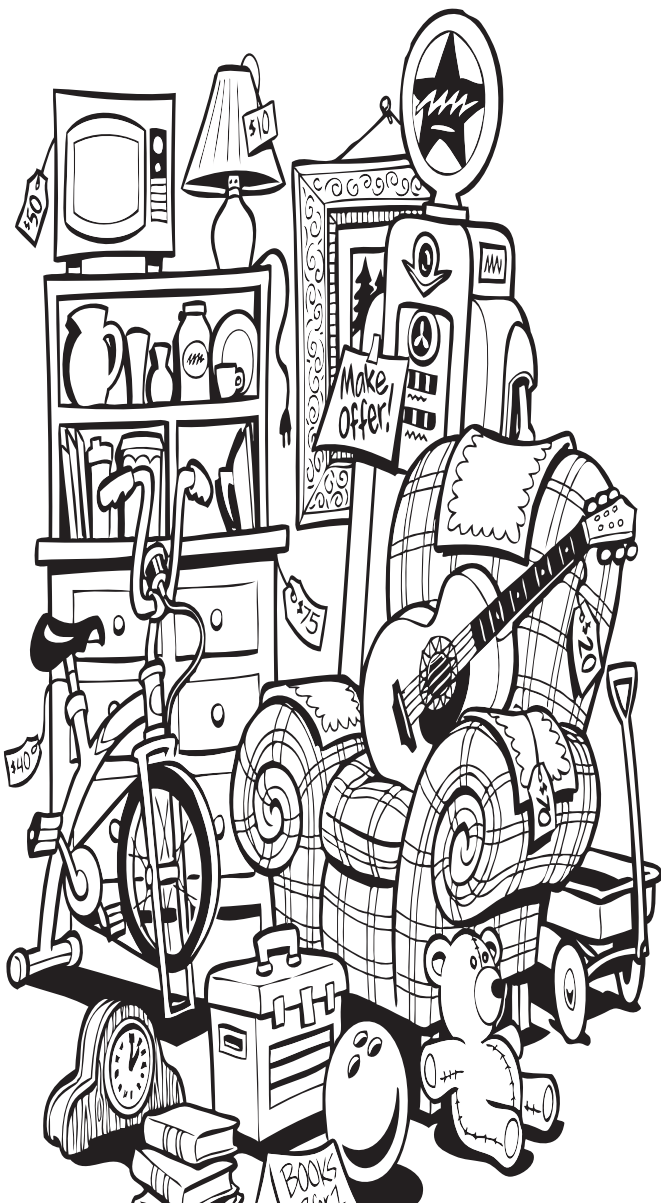
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) The past will provide you with insight into a certain situation. Connect with an old friend or revisit an idea that you would like to pursue. A personal change will lift your spirits.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you offer to lend a helping hand, you will gain experience as well as a good connection. Strive for personal growth, self-improvement and romance. Success can be yours!

TOO MUCH CLUTTER?

HAVE A GARAGE SALE!

ADVERTISE IN CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!



BEETLE BAILEY

WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?
THEY WERE SHOOTING A TV SHOW AT THE DINER IN TOWN
5-2
GREG + MORT WALKER
GUY FIERI AUTOGRAPHED A BAGEL FOR ME
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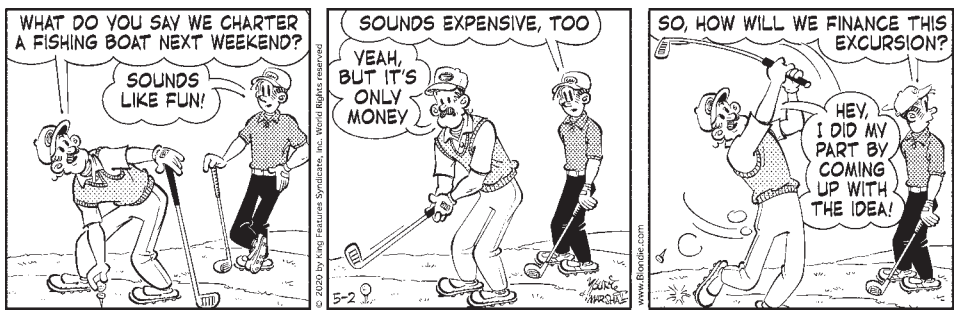
BLONDIE


WHAT DO YOU SAY WE CHARTER A FISHING BOAT NEXT WEEKEND?
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
SOUNDS EXPENSIVE, TOO
YEAH, BUT IT'S ONLY MONEY
SO, HOW WILL WE FINANCE THIS EXCURSION?
HEY, I DID MY PART BY COMING UP WITH THE IDEA!
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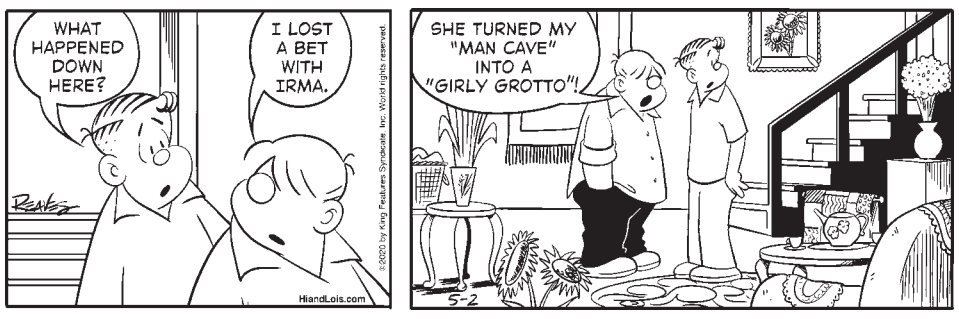
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS


WHAT HAPPENED DOWN HERE?
I LOST A BET WITH IRMA.
HiandLois.com
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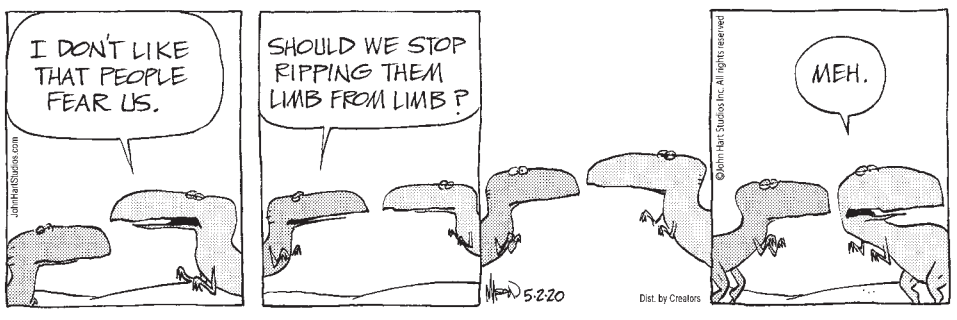
SHE TURNED MY "MAN CAVE" INTO A "GIRLY GROTTO"!
5-2

BC


I DON'T LIKE THAT PEOPLE FEAR US.
SHOULD WE STOP RIPPING THEM LIMB FROM LIMB?
MEH.
JohnHartStudios.com
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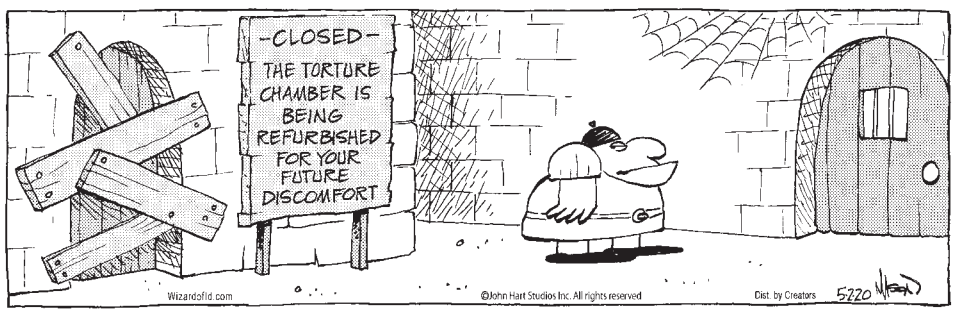
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT

WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON COPIER PAPER.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
I KNOW. I HOARDED IT ALL AT MY HOUSE WHEN SOMEONE SAID WE MIGHT HAVE A SHORTAGE.
CAN YOU BRING SOME OF IT BACK?
THAT WOULD DEFEAT THE POINT OF HOARDING.
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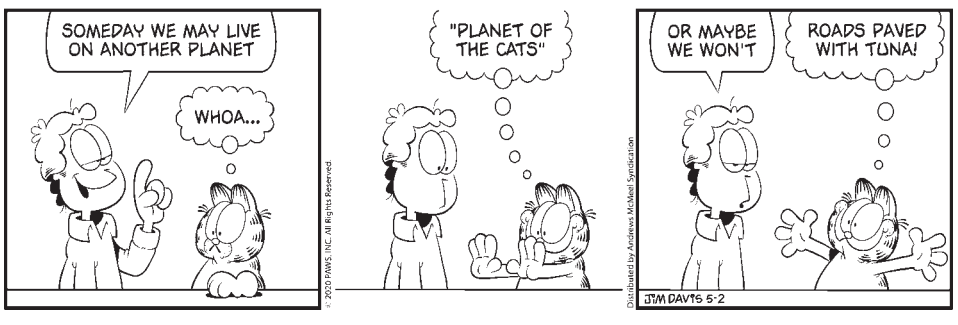
GARFIELD


SOMEDAY WE MAY LIVE ON ANOTHER PLANET
WHOA...
"PLANET OF THE CATS"
OR MAYBE WE WON'T
ROADS PAVED WITH TUNA!
JIM DAVIS 5-2
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
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FORT KNOX

FATHER TURNED DOWN THE TICKET TO HAWAII FROM THE NEIGHBORS.
SO THE WAR CONTINUES?
I SUPPOSE... BUT IT WILL END SOON.
REALLY? IS THE CONSTRUCTION ALMOST OVER?
NO, FATHER CHAINED HIMSELF TO THEIR WRECKING BALL.
FREEDOM!!
PREP-H
EGO
First Aid + FLAKES
Facebook.com/fortknoxcomic
5/02
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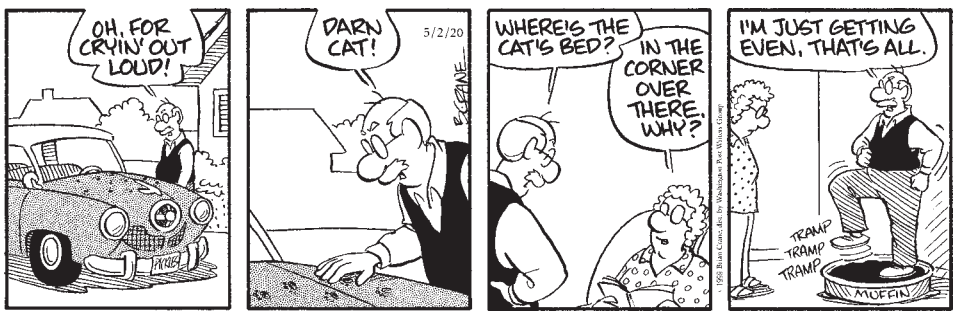
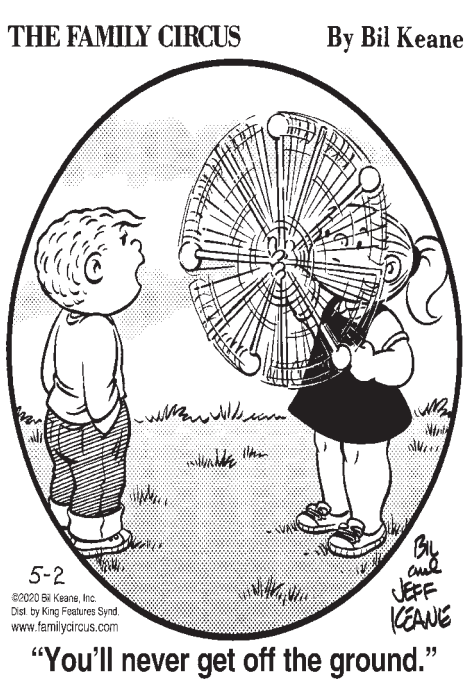
PICKLES



FAMILY CIRCUS

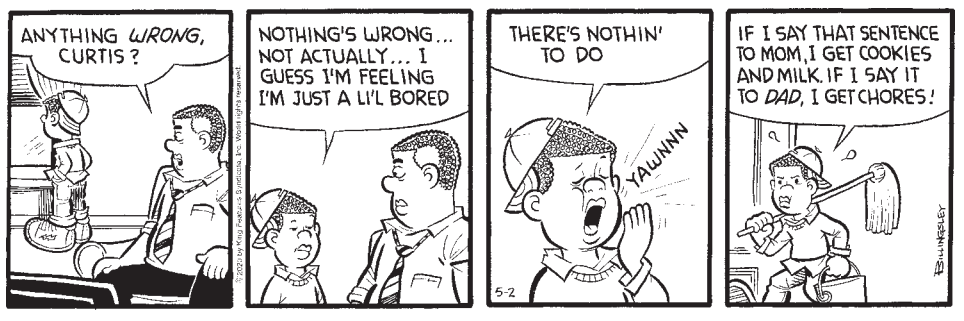


DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES

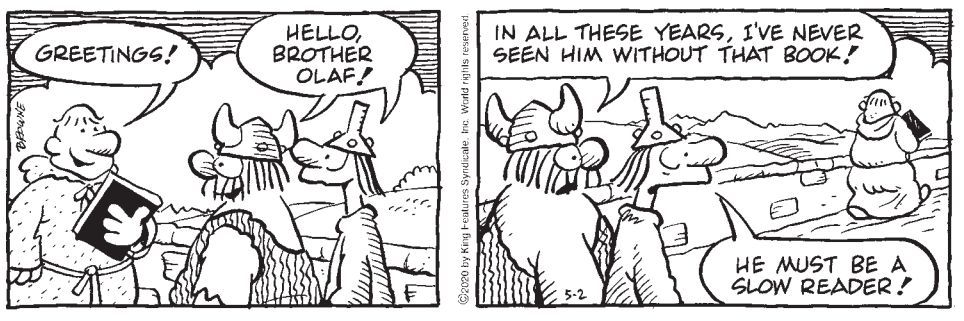
LET'S JUST PUT MOM'S PHONE BACK AND HOPE SHE DOESN'T NOTICE THE CRACKED SCREEN.
BUT WHAT IF SHE DOES?
WHATEVER HAPPENS, JUST ACT INNOCENT.
INNOCENT. OKAY. GOT IT.
MY PHONE!!!
WE DID IT! PUNISH US! WAAAAA!

CURTIS


ANYTHING WRONG, CURTIS?
NOTHING'S WRONG... NOT ACTUALLY... I GUESS I'M FEELING I'M JUST A LI'L BORED
THERE'S NOTHIN' TO DO
YAWNNN
IF I SAY THAT SENTENCE TO MOM, I GET COOKIES AND MILK. IF I SAY IT TO DAD, I GET CHORES!
5-2

ZITS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE


GREETINGS!
HELLO, BROTHER OLAF!
IN ALL THESE YEARS, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM WITHOUT THAT BOOK!
HE MUST BE A SLOW READER!
5-2
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MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MUTTS

FOO
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
I SHOULD BE BUZZING AROUND POLLINATING FLOWERS AND MAKING HONEY, BUT I FEEL LIKE JUST STAYING HOME AND DOING NOTHING. AUGH!
TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE.
5-2 mutts.com

SALLY FORTH

PLEASE, MOM. I NEED SOME GUIDANCE UNTIL I CAN CONTROL MY FEARS MYSELF. I KNOW YOUR NATURAL INCLINATION IS TO TRY TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE ME FEEL BETTER. BUT THIS IS TOO BIG FOR A BAND-AID. IT'S TOO OVERWHELMING. AND I NEED REAL HELP.
KEEFE
PLEASE TRUST ME, SWEETIE. IT WILL BE FINE.
GREAT TALK, MOM. I'M GONNA GO STARE INTO THE MIDDLE DISTANCE FOR A FEW HOURS WHILE YOU WONDER WHY I'M NO LONGER OPENING UP.
5-2
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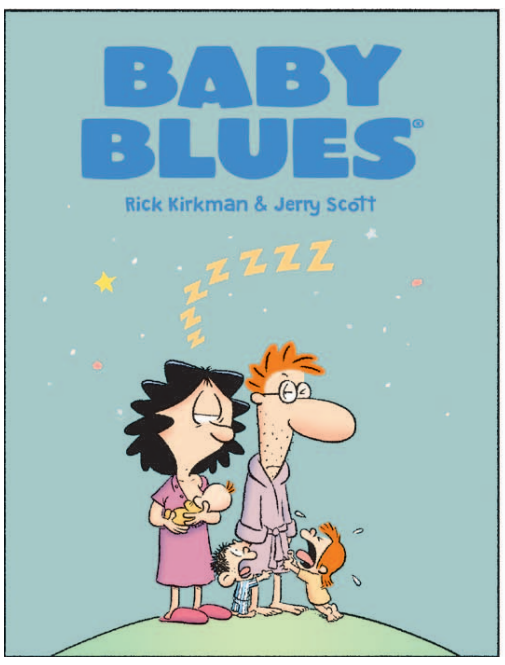
Jane Ammeson @HPAmmeson
John Matuszak @HPMatuszak
Julie Swidwa @HPSwidwa
Ben Sanders @HPBenSanders
Maxwell Harden @HPMaxwellHarden
Ben Spencer @HPBenSpencer

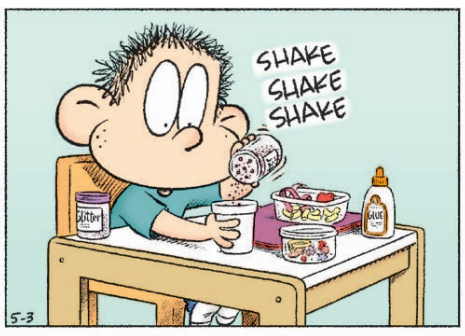
Weekend Comics

MAY 2-3, 2020

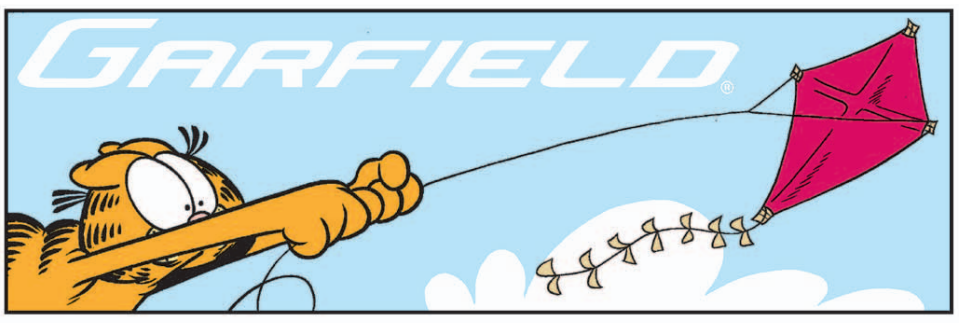
BABY BLUES

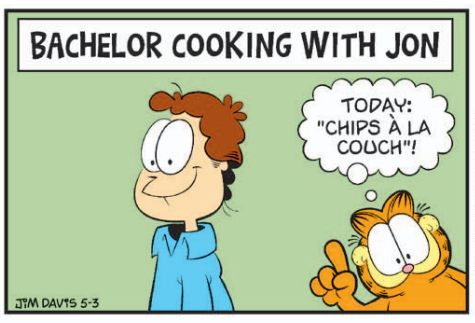
Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

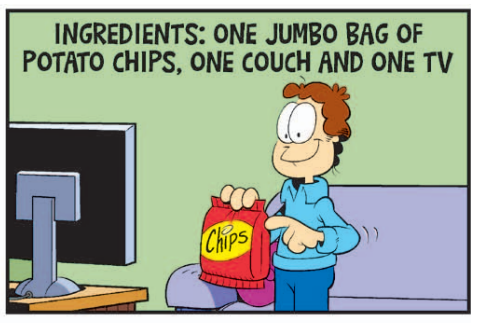


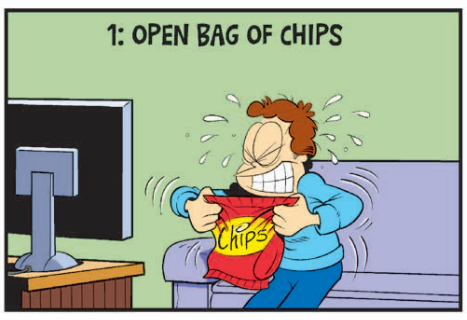


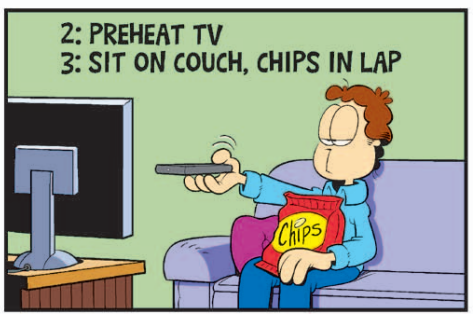
GARFIELD

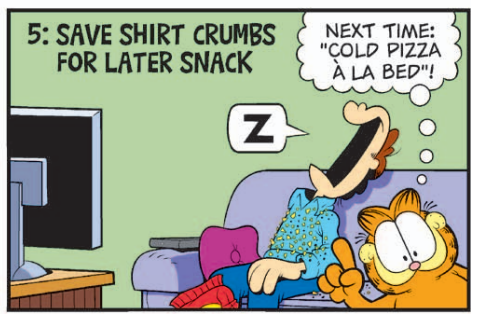






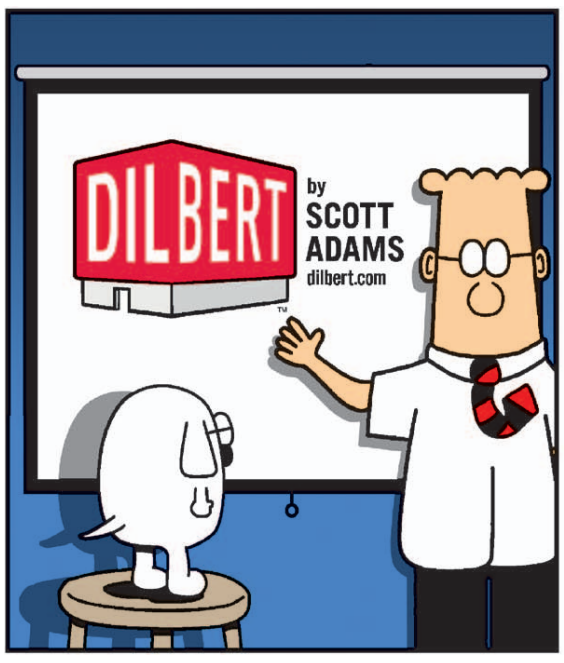






DILBERT

by SCOTT ADAMS
dilbert.com



YOUR METHOD OF CALCULATING THE SAFETY STATISTICS IS FLAWED.
WOW. WAIT UNTIL I TELL EVERYONE YOU DON'T THINK SAFETY MATTERS.
I. . . DIDN'T SAY THAT. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE WAY YOU MEASURED IT.
IT'S TOO LATE TO WALK IT BACK NOW!
Twitter: @scottadamssays
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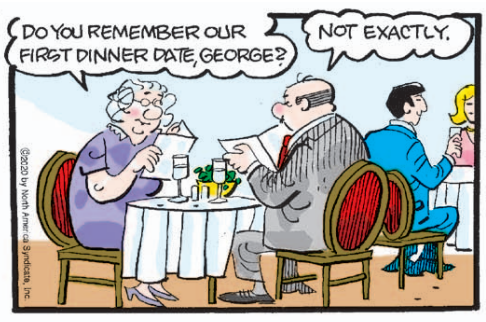
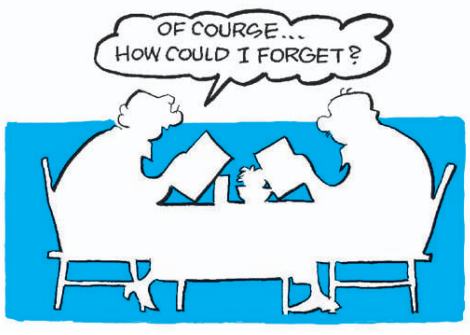
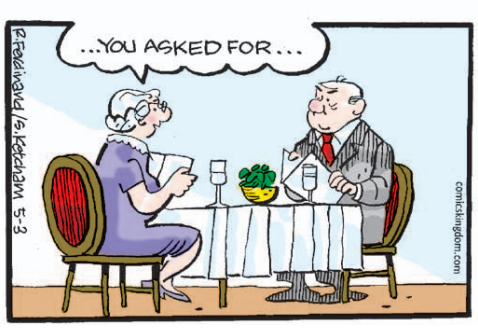
I'M NOT "WALKING IT BACK." I'M CLARIFYING.
THERE'S NOTHING TO CLARIFY. YOU HATE SAFETY.
STOP PUTTING WORDS IN MY MOUTH!!! I'M A BETTER AUTHORITY ON WHAT I THINK THAN YOU ARE!!!
WHAT WAS ALL THAT YELLING ABOUT?
DILBERT THINKS SAFETY DOESN'T MATTER.
Dilbert.com
5-3-20

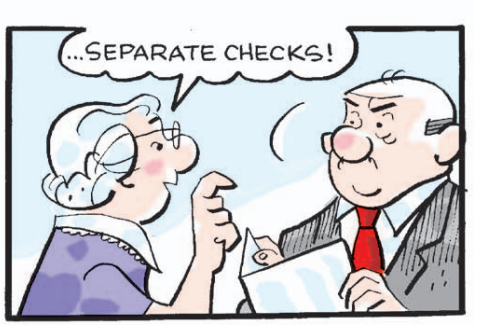
Dennis the Menace UNFORGETTABLE

Hank Ketcham's



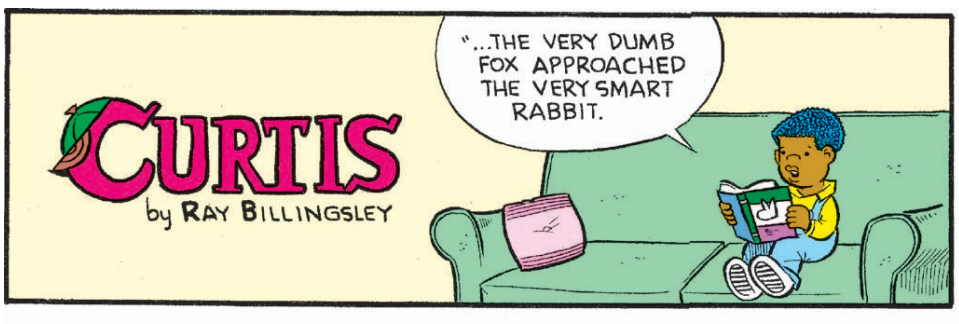


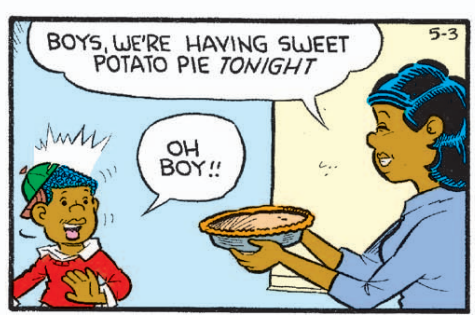


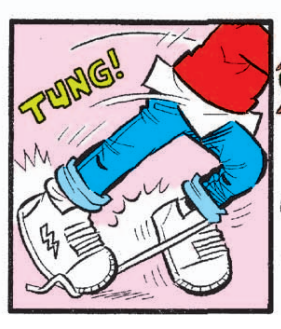


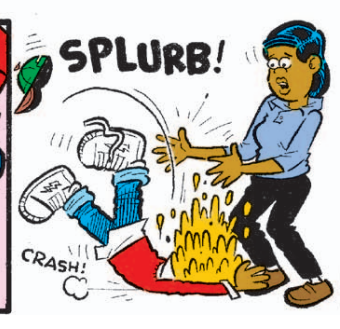
CURTIS

by RAY BILLINGSLEY



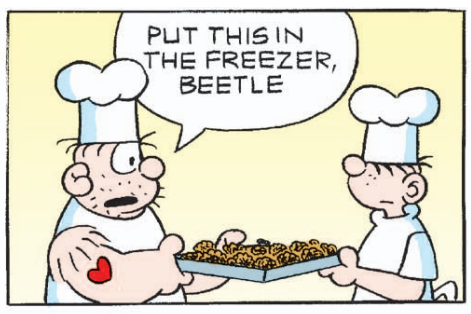






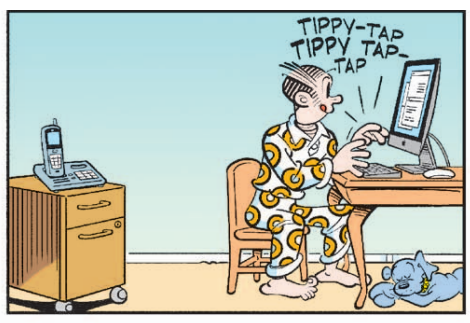
beetle bailey

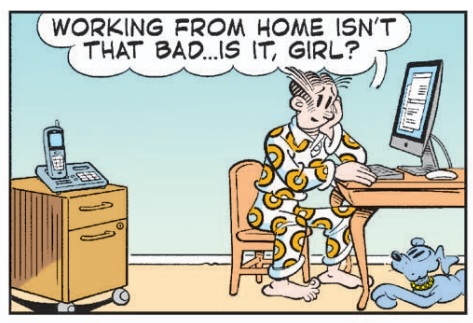
Mort Walker's

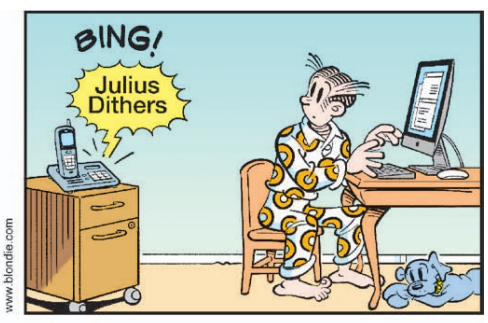


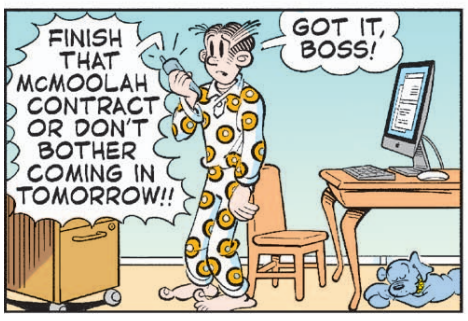
BLONDIE

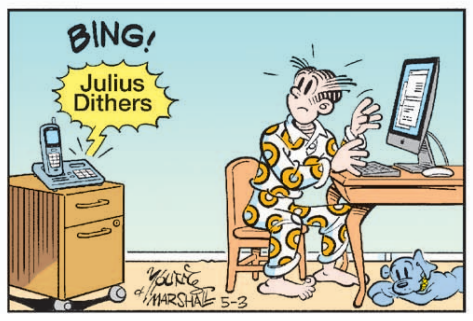
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

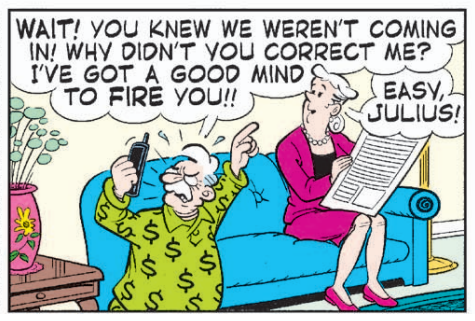


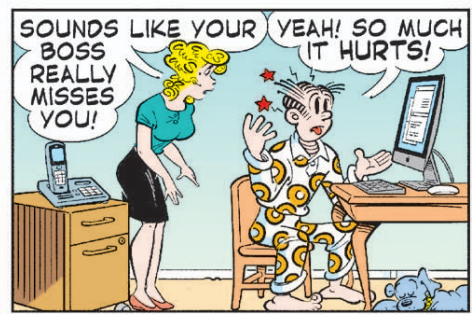






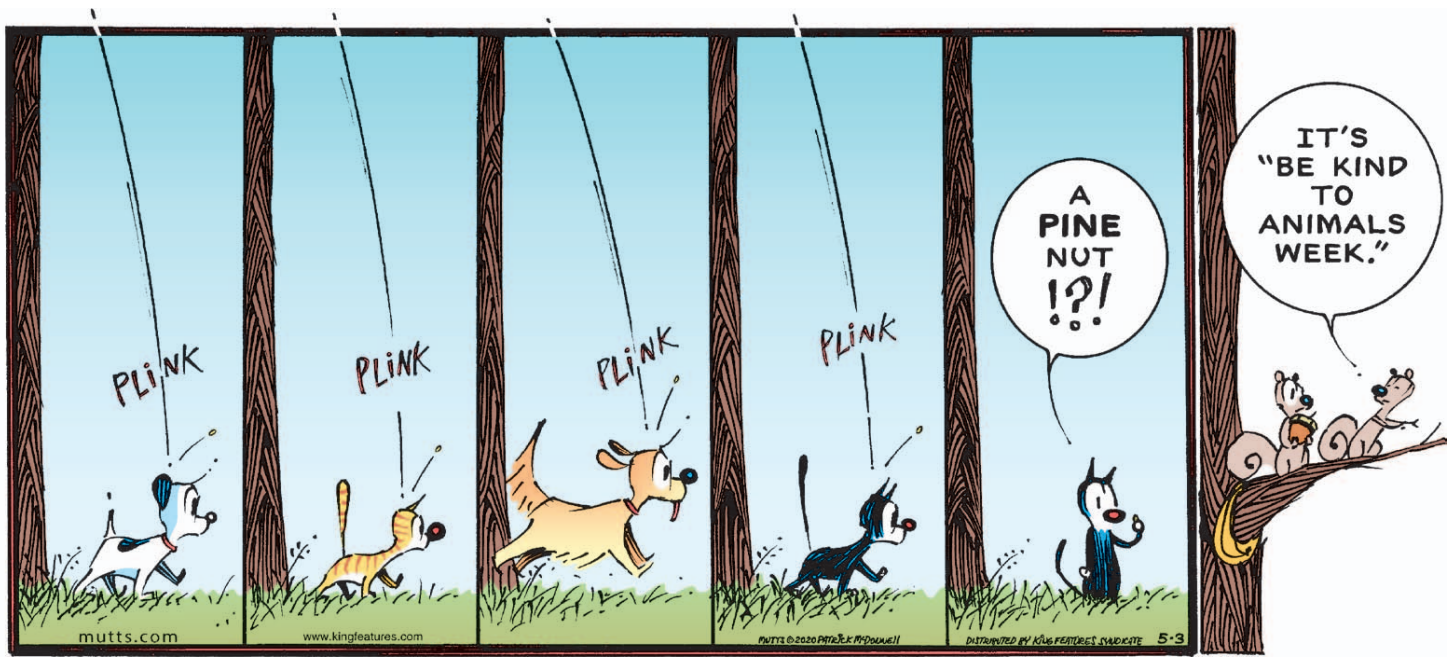






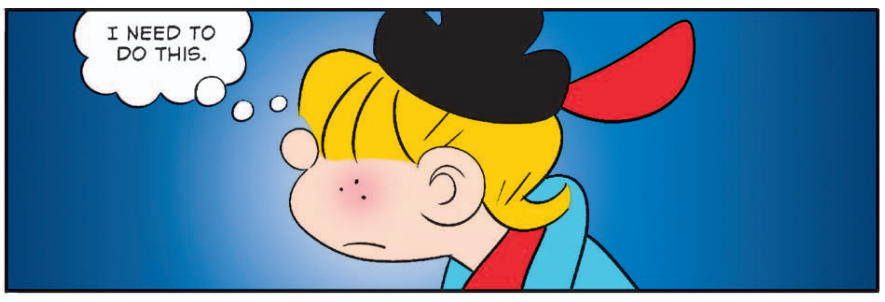
MUTTS

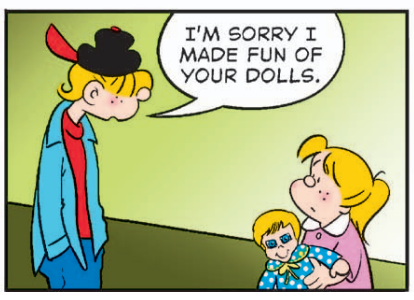
PATRICK McDONNELL

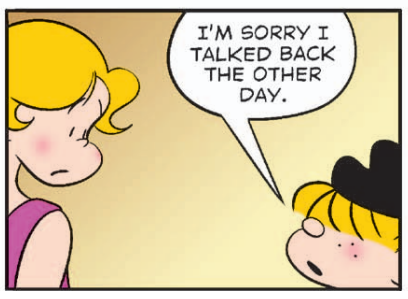


Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER







The FAMILY CIRCUS

By BIL KEANE

I THINK MOMMY WANTS IT PLANTED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE YARD.
STOP CLIMBING THE TREE, PJ, TILL AFTER DADDY GETS IT PLANTED.
DADDY, CAN YOU BUILD US A TREEHOUSE NEXT?
BARFY CAN DIG FASTER WITH HIS PAWS.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS PICK THE SPOT WHERE ALL THE ROCKS ARE?
CAN I GO TURN ON THE HOSE NOW?
DADDY, WHICH LIMB ARE WE GOING TO HANG THE SWING FROM?
IF YOU KEEP ON DIGGING WILL YOU COME OUT IN CHINA?
Bil and Jeff Keane
5-3

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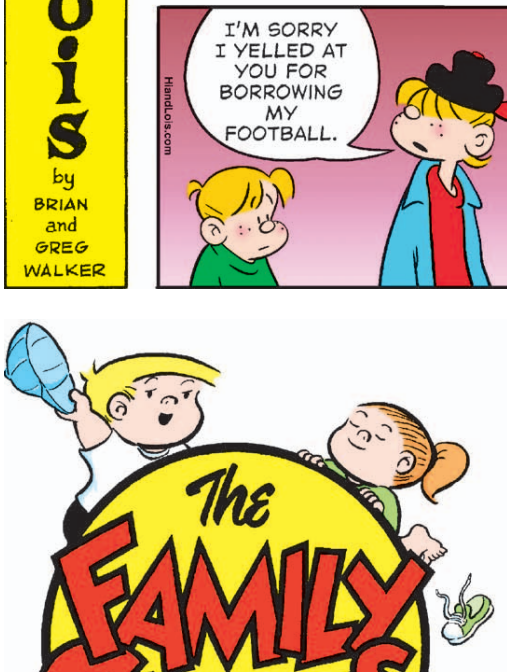
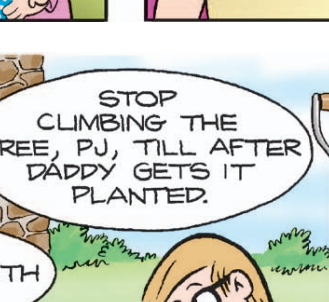


FUNKY WINKERBEAN

by TOM BATIUK



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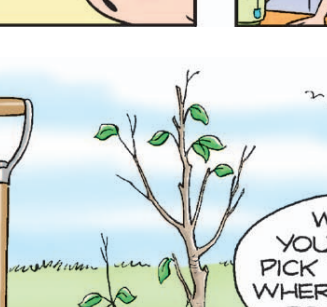
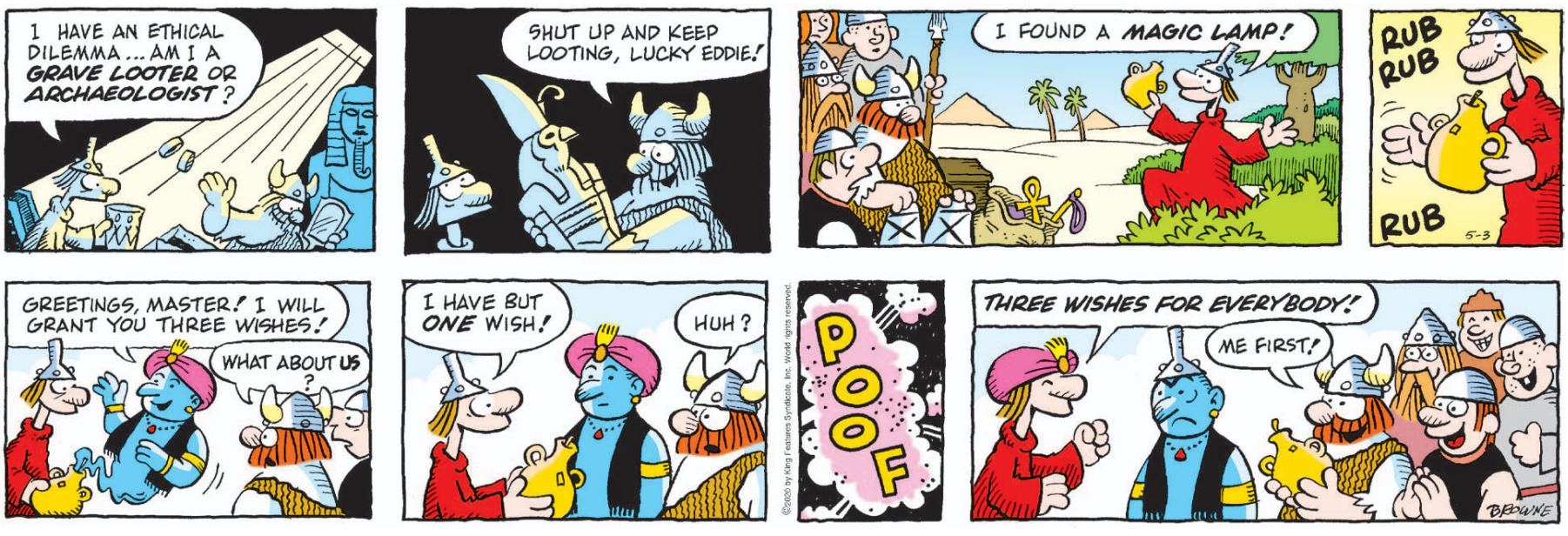


HAGAR the horrible

by DIK BROWNE


I HAVE AN ETHICAL DILEMMA... AM I A GRAVE LOOTER OR ARCHAEOLOGIST?
SHUT UP AND KEEP LOOTING, LUCKY EDDIE!
I FOUND A MAGIC LAMP!
RUB RUB RUB
5-3
GREETINGS, MASTER! I WILL GRANT YOU THREE WISHES!
WHAT ABOUT US?
I HAVE BUT ONE WISH!
HUH?
POOF
THREE WISHES FOR EVERYBODY!
ME FIRST!
BROWNE

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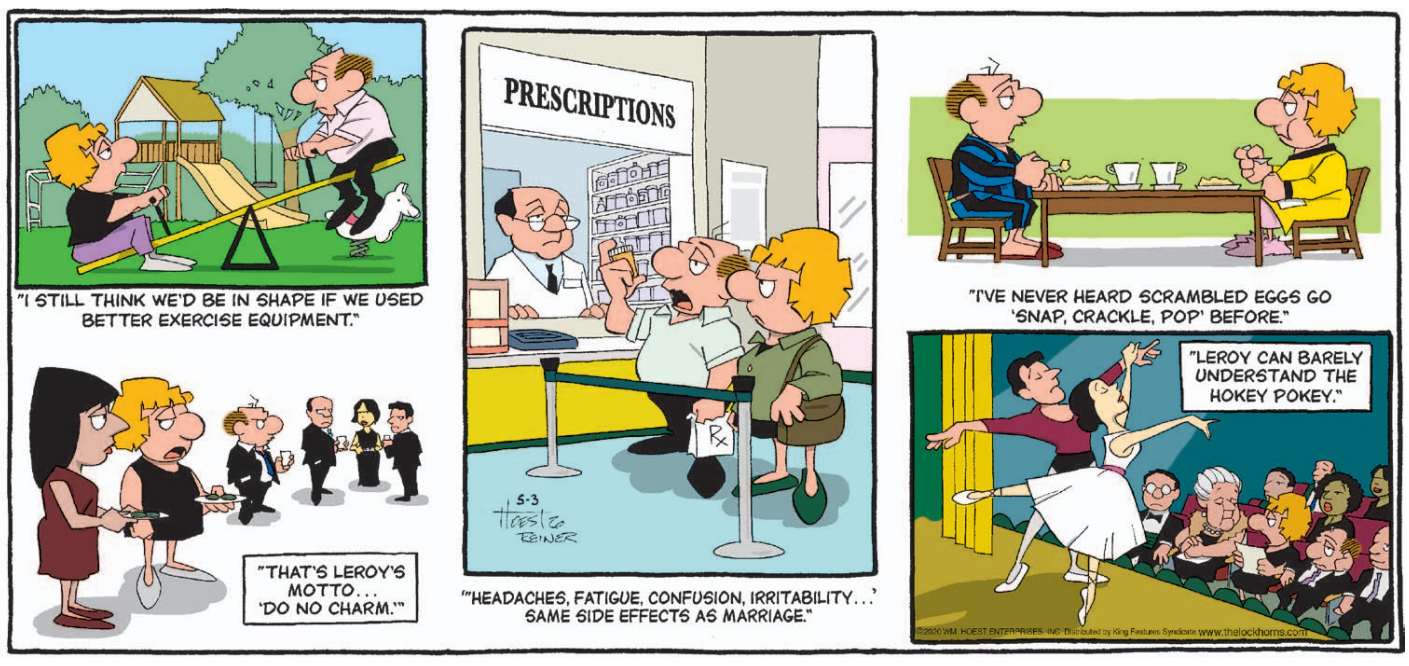
THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER


"I STILL THINK WE'D BE IN SHAPE IF WE USED BETTER EXERCISE EQUIPMENT."
"THAT'S LEROY'S MOTTO... 'DO NO CHARM.'"
PRESCRIPTIONS
5-3
"HEADACHES, FATIGUE, CONFUSION, IRRITABILITY...' SAME SIDE EFFECTS AS MARRIAGE."
"I'VE NEVER HEARD SCRAMBLED EGGS GO 'SNAP, CRACKLE, POP' BEFORE."
"LEROY CAN BARELY UNDERSTAND THE HOKEY POKEY."
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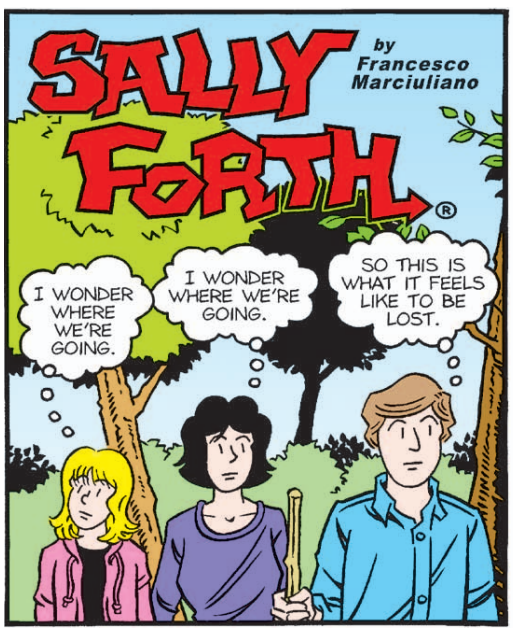
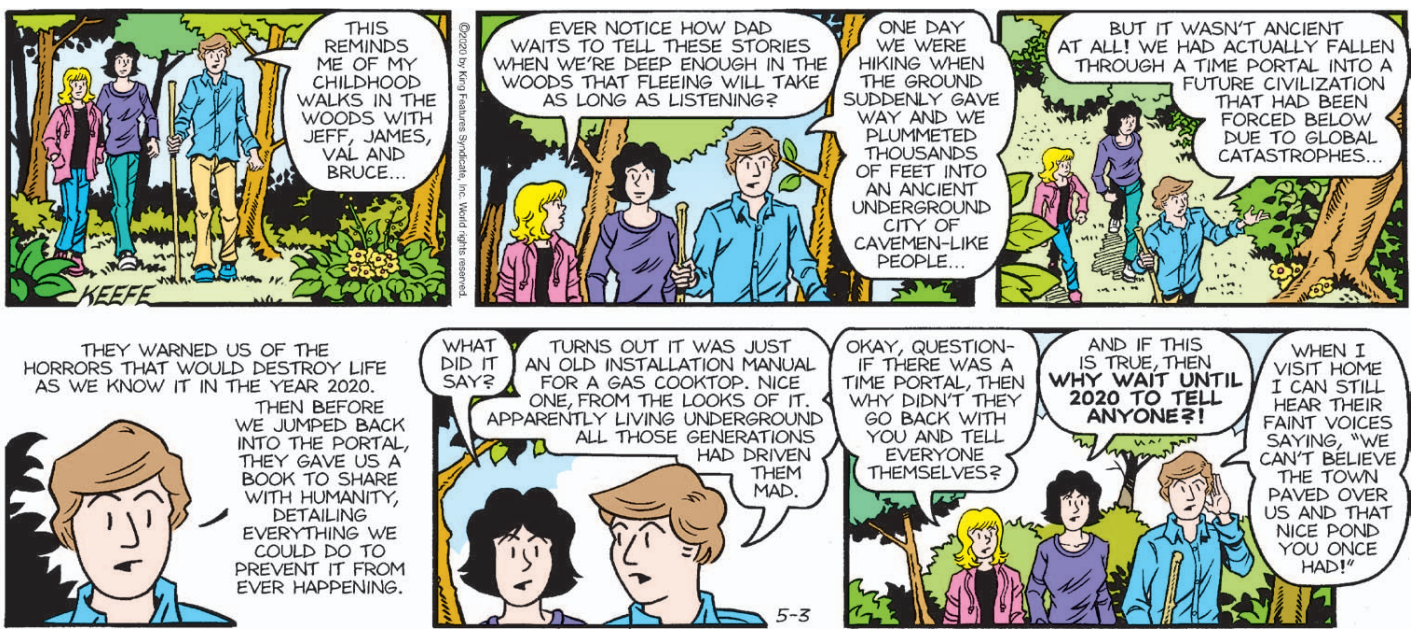
SALLY FORTH®

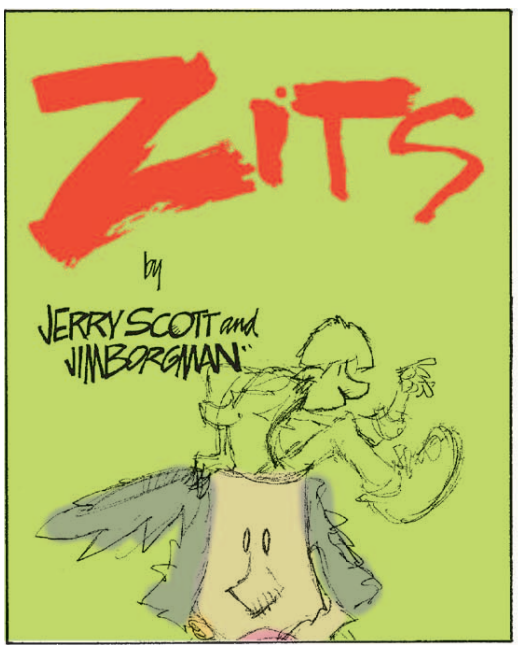
by Francesco Marciuliano




THIS REMINDS ME OF MY CHILDHOOD WALKS IN THE WOODS WITH JEFF, JAMES, VAL AND BRUCE...
KEEFE
EVER NOTICE HOW DAD WAITS TO TELL THESE STORIES WHEN WE'RE DEEP ENOUGH IN THE WOODS THAT FLEEING WILL TAKE AS LONG AS LISTENING?
ONE DAY WE WERE HIKING WHEN THE GROUND SUDDENLY GAVE WAY AND WE PLUMMETED THOUSANDS OF FEET INTO AN ANCIENT UNDERGROUND CITY OF CAVEMEN-LIKE PEOPLE...
BUT IT WASN'T ANCIENT AT ALL! WE HAD ACTUALLY FALLEN THROUGH A TIME PORTAL INTO A FUTURE CIVILIZATION THAT HAD BEEN FORCED BELOW DUE TO GLOBAL CATASTROPHES...
THEY WARNED US OF THE HORRORS THAT WOULD DESTROY LIFE AS WE KNOW IT IN THE YEAR 2020.
THEN BEFORE WE JUMPED BACK INTO THE PORTAL, THEY GAVE US A BOOK TO SHARE WITH HUMANITY, DETAILING EVERYTHING WE COULD DO TO PREVENT IT FROM EVER HAPPENING.
WHAT DID IT SAY?
TURNS OUT IT WAS JUST AN OLD INSTALLATION MANUAL FOR A GAS COOKTOP. NICE ONE, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT. APPARENTLY LIVING UNDERGROUND ALL THOSE GENERATIONS HAD DRIVEN THEM MAD.
OKAY, QUESTION- IF THERE WAS A TIME PORTAL, THEN WHY DIDN'T THEY GO BACK WITH YOU AND TELL EVERYONE THEMSELVES?
AND IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN WHY WAIT UNTIL 2020 TO TELL ANYONE?!
WHEN I VISIT HOME I CAN STILL HEAR THEIR FAINT VOICES SAYING, "WE CAN'T BELIEVE THE TOWN PAVED OVER US AND THAT NICE POND YOU ONCE HAD!"
5-3

ZITS

by JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN



YOU FINISHED YOUR PRESENTATION?
CRUSHED IT, ACTUALLY.
SCROLL SCROLL SCROLL
DON'T HOLD BACK.
SCROLL SCROLL SCROLL
GIVE ME YOUR HONEST OPINION.
YOU COULD USE A SHOWER, YOUR CLOTHES ARE A MESS, AND YOU TREND TOWARD LAZINESS.
5-3
SCOTT and BORGMAN
I MEANT ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT!
THAT PART'S FINE.

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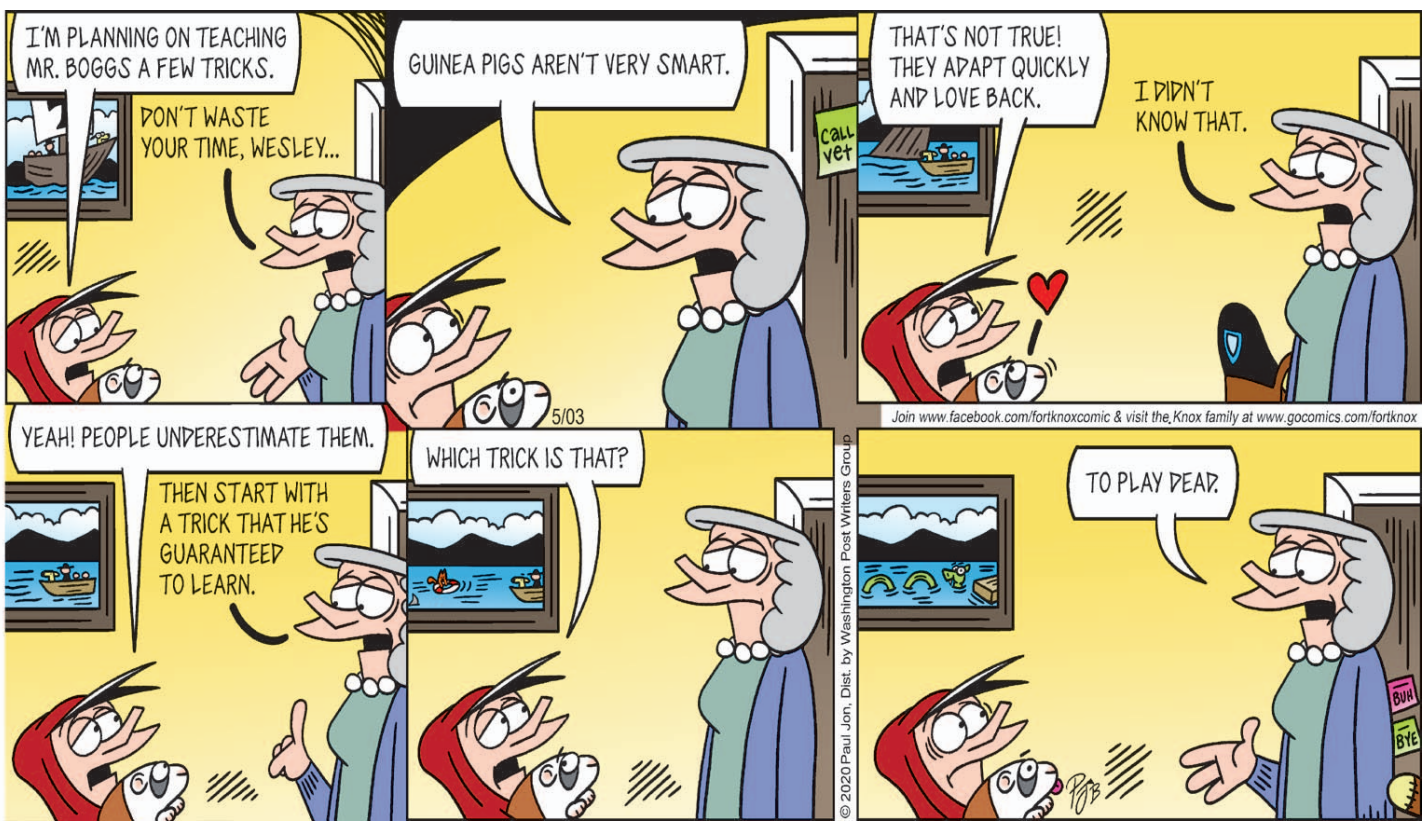
FORT KNOX™

by Paul Jon


I'M PLANNING ON TEACHING MR. BOGGS A FEW TRICKS.
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, WESLEY...
GUINEA PIGS AREN'T VERY SMART.
THAT'S NOT TRUE! THEY ADAPT QUICKLY AND LOVE BACK.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
call vet
5/03
YEAH! PEOPLE UNDERESTIMATE THEM.
THEN START WITH A TRICK THAT HE'S GUARANTEED TO LEARN.
WHICH TRICK IS THAT?
TO PLAY DEAD.
BUH
BYE
Join www.facebook.com/fortknoxcomic & visit the Knox family at www.gocomics.com/fortknox

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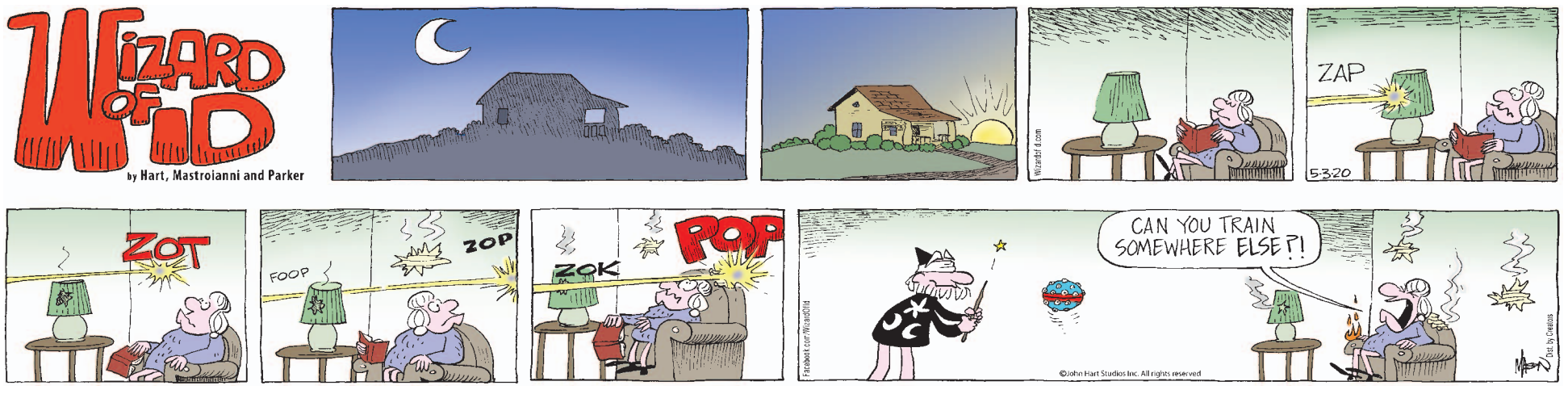
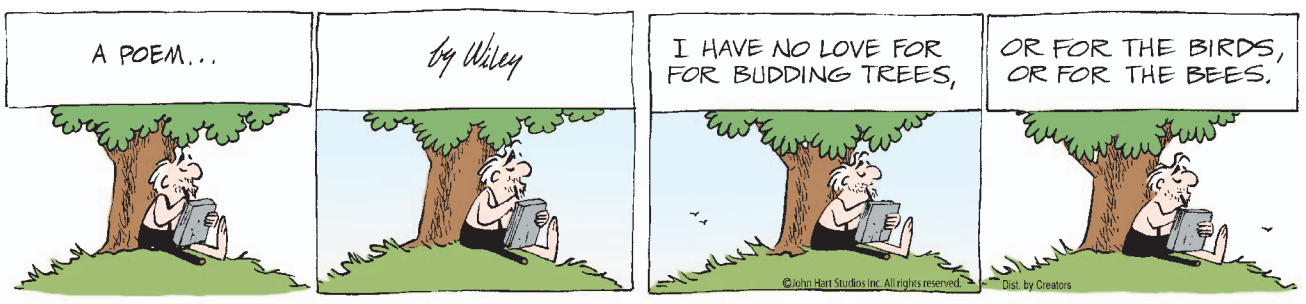
WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker



BC

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART


A POEM...
by Wiley
I HAVE NO LOVE FOR FOR BUDDING TREES,
OR FOR THE BIRDS, OR FOR THE BEES.
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved.
Dist. by Creators
AND NO LOVE LOST ON SCRUFFY KNEES,
OR ANYTHING OF SPRING.
KEEP YOUR BUGS AND TICKS AND FLEAS,
I CAN DO WITHOUT A WHEEZY SNEEZE.
ALL I HAVE ARE ALLERGIES,
FROM EVERYTHING IN SPRING!
5-3-20
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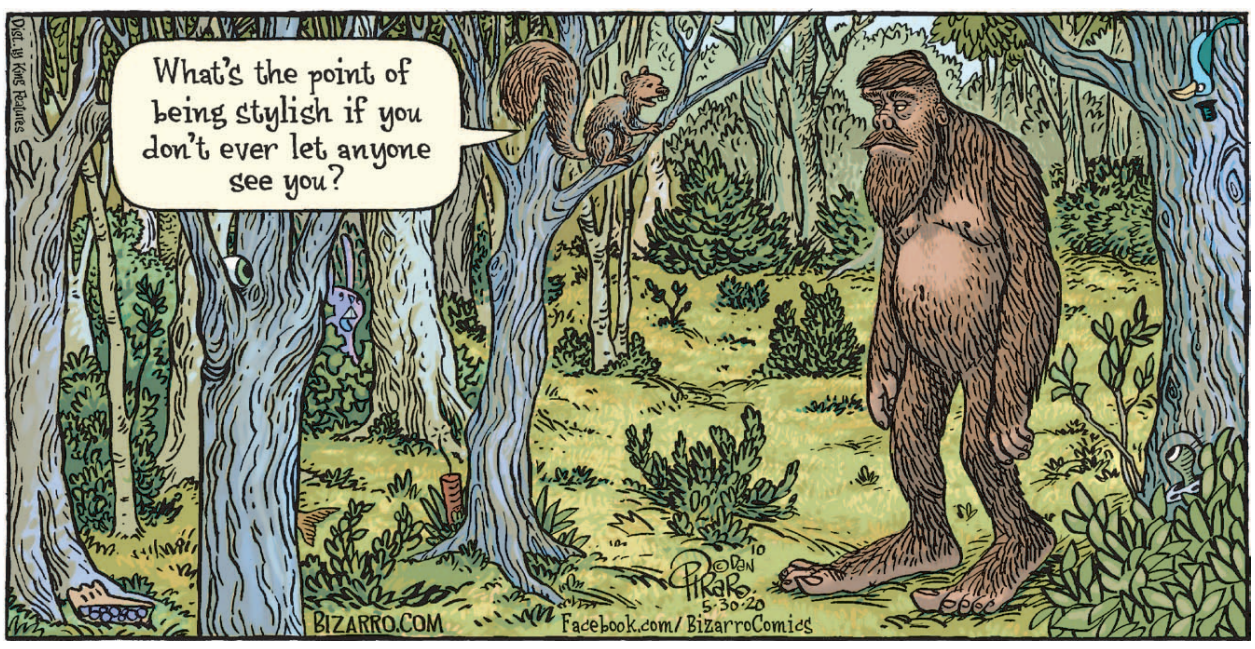
What's the point of being stylish if you don't ever let anyone see you?
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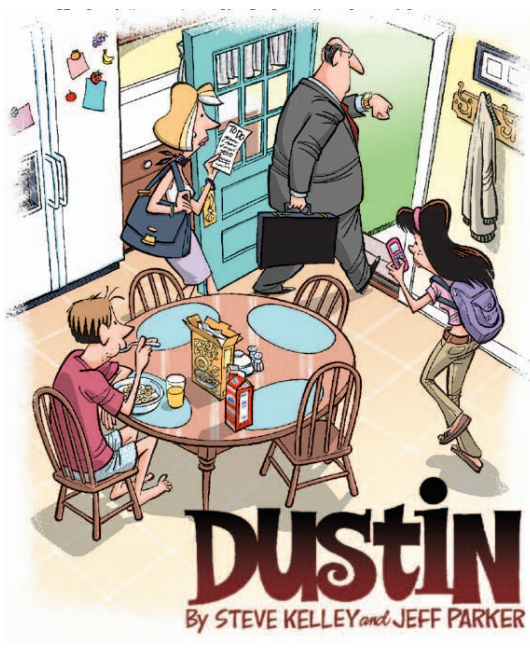
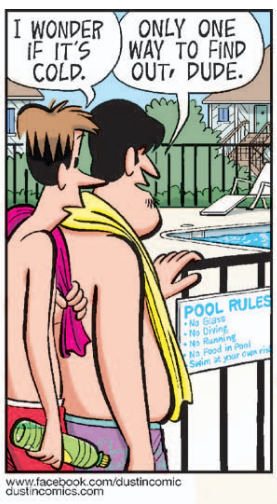
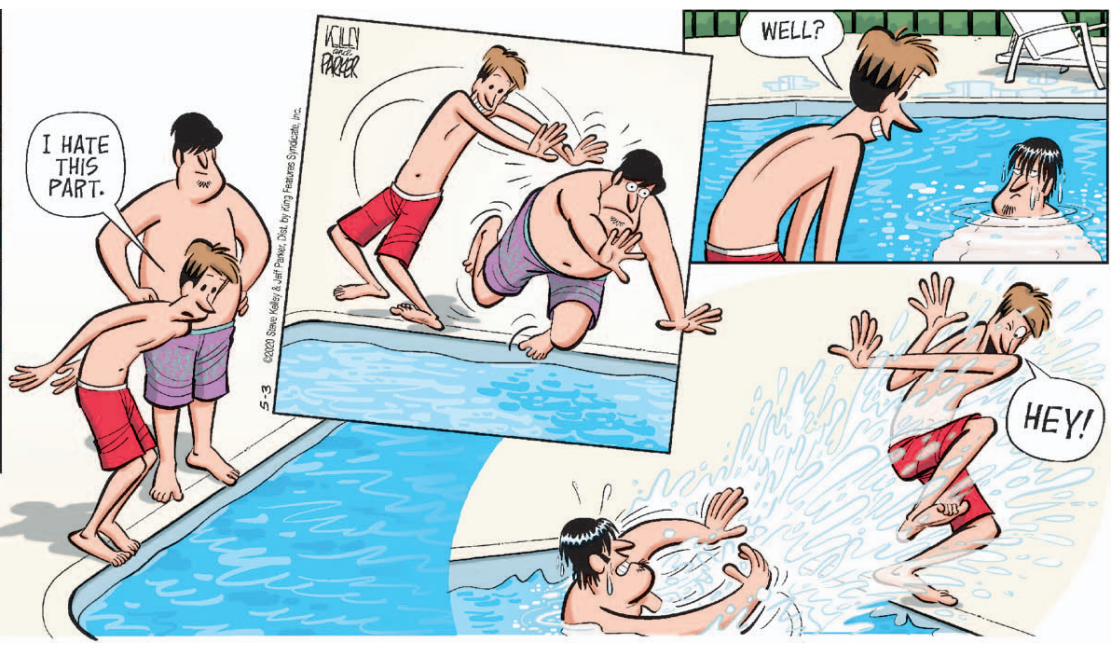
5-30-20

DUSTIN

By STEVE KELLEY and JEFF PARKER

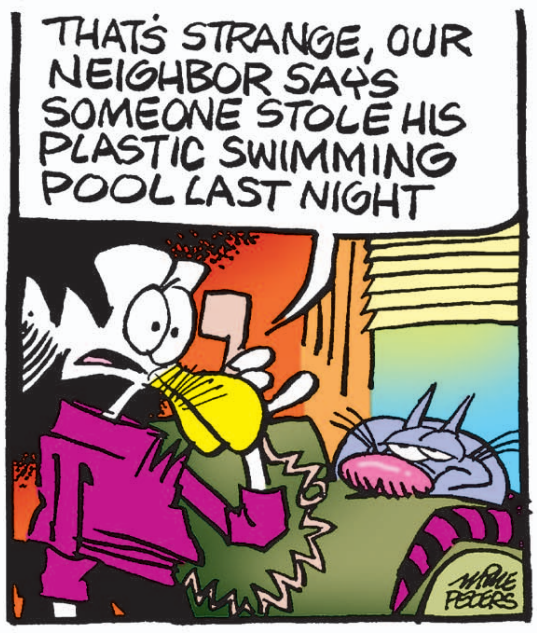


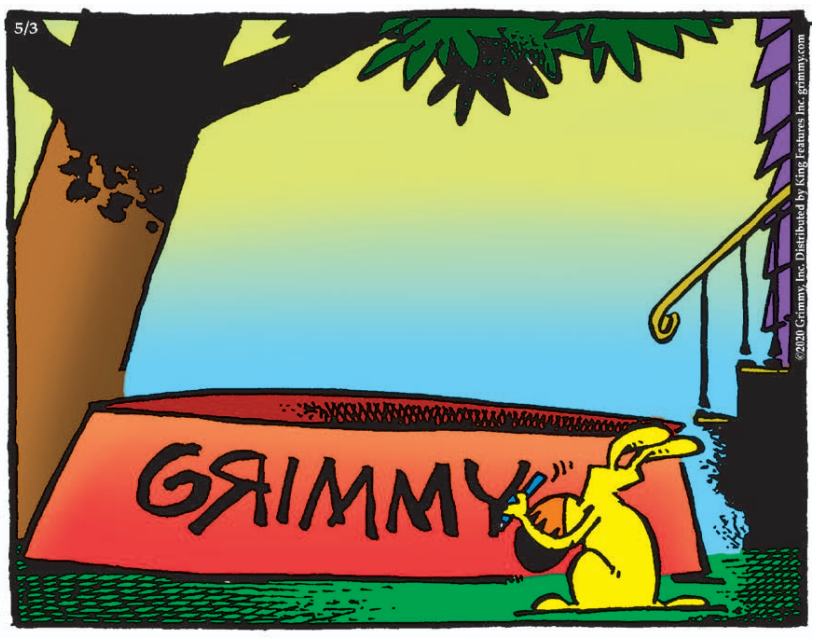




MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

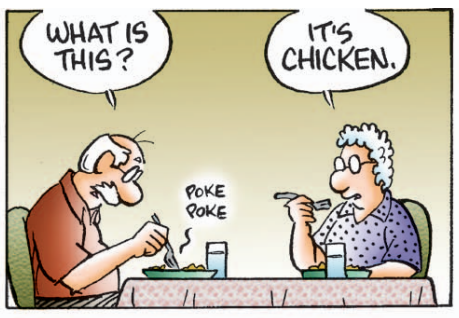
GRIMMY





PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE



OH, WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT AM I THINKING? IT IS FISH!
picklescomics@sbcglobal.net
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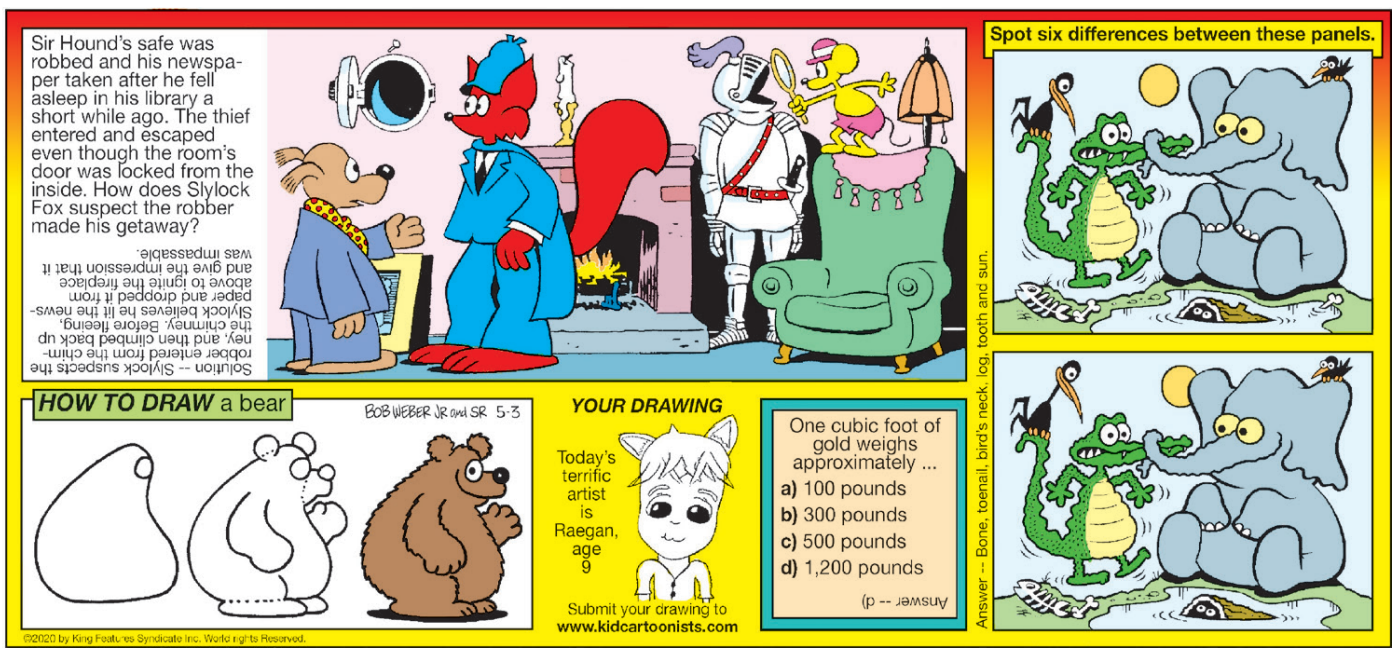
Bob Weber Jr.'s SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS


Sir Hound's safe was robbed and his newspaper taken after he fell asleep in his library a short while ago. The thief entered and escaped even though the room's door was locked from the inside. How does Slylock Fox suspect the robber made his getaway?
Solution -- Slylock suspects the robber entered from the chimney, and then climbed back up the chimney. Before fleeing, Slylock believes he lit the newspaper and dropped it from above to ignite the fireplace and give the impression that it was impassable.
Spot six differences between these panels.
HOW TO DRAW a bear
BOB WEBER JR and SR 5-3
YOUR DRAWING
Today's terrific artist is Raegan, age 9
Submit your drawing to www.kidcartoonists.com
One cubic foot of gold weighs approximately ...
a) 100 pounds
b) 300 pounds
c) 500 pounds
d) 1,200 pounds
Answer -- d)
Answer -- Bone, toenail, bird's neck, log, tooth and sun.
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